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**Deborah Miles posted in Fairport Central School District**

**Social Media Warning/Online Safety**

**Social Media Warning and Online Safety**

Dear Fairport Families;

The District received a submission through our Safe Schools hotline indicating that an anonymous Instagram account was targeting ninth-grade and Fairport High School students and soliciting photos from those students. Immediately after receiving the report, the District's Safety and Security Coordinator began an investigation that is ongoing.

Parents and caregivers - please take time to discuss online safety with your students. Social media sites like Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat are effectively anonymous, and it is vital that your students understand how to protect themselves and how to react when something doesn't feel right.

We encourage you to learn more about how to talk to your students about online safety using resources like these from the New York State Office of Information Technology Services. There are links there for resources that caregivers and educators can use to speak with students of all ages. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has information here on how to communicate with older students about "sextortion" and online enticement.

The investigation into the Instagram account that allegedly solicited photos is underway - but it is always a good time to have these important conversations with your loved ones.

If you become aware of an online or social media incident involving any students, please reach out to the District immediately and encourage your student to do the same. Students and parents can also contact their building principals or a trusted adult with any concerns or questions.

Fairport has also invested in a service called the Safe School Helpline, a 24-hour confidential reporting service to help keep our school community safe. The Safe School Helpline can be accessed several ways: Calling 1-800-4-1-VOICE ext. 359 (1-800-418-6423 ext. 359) or text TIPS to 66746 or by visiting our Fairport.org website.

Sincerely,

Deborah Miles

Director of Student Services

Fairport Central School District