



# Constellation Schools

*"The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children!"*

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March 1, 2019

Dear Constellation Families,

We would like to make you aware of the social media attention surrounding the "Momo Challenge." This challenge allegedly features a distorted avatar that tells children to do harmful things and threatens them if they do not comply or if they tell others. This challenge has been said to appear in the "Suggested Videos" section of YouTube, on WhatsApp, and in other online games.

It is worth noting that this challenge may be a hoax. YouTube has reported "... no recent evidence of videos promoting the Momo Challenge..."

Whether it is a hoax or not, this does provide an opportunity for you to reopen communication with your child regarding good practices online.

- Encourage your child to talk about what they see online with you or a trusted adult.
- Acknowledge that their peers are probably talking about this, or other, online challenges.
- Discuss the potential risks and dangers of online challenges.
- Stay up to date on latest social media and online trends. A great resource is [www.common sense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org).
- Model responsible online habits and appropriate conversations regarding social media trends or challenges.
- Pay close attention to your child's online activity on their personal devices.

While we take every precaution with our laptops and teach internet safety at every age, it is not always enough to protect students when they leave our campus. Access to personal electronic devices, such as cell phones, online gaming devices, tablets, etc., can leave your children vulnerable to these disturbing and often dangerous trends. Communication and involvement will always be the best front-line defense.

If you or your child have questions or concerns regarding this or any other trend, please reach out to your school's principal, counselor, or teacher. They have access to many helpful resources and are a great partner in keeping your child safe.

Sincerely,

The Constellation Schools' Technology and Education Teams