Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are writing to seek your help in making sure your children use the Internet appropriately.ï¿½ The unregulated nature of the information on the Internet requires that you establish guidelines for Internet use in the home. Children can face many dangers on the Internet, such as receiving threats of violence, meeting online predators, or accessing violent or pornographic Web sites. Even careful students can come across inappropriate information on the Internet.

Here are some suggestions and information to help you steer your children away from danger on the Internet:

1. **Adult supervision.** Be sure to supervise your children's Internet use even if your children are in high school. Parental oversight is the most effective way to monitor children's Internet use at home.

2. **Computer placement.** Put the computer in a central family room rather than in the children's bedroom so that you can more easily monitor online activities.

3. **Safety tips.** Give your children safety rules for Internet use. You can find suggested rules at the Safe Kids Web site at www.safekids.com/kidsrule.htm. Make sure you tell your children to obey your rules whether they are in your home or in a friend's home. Tell your children not to arrange meetings or give out personal information or photos to strangers via e-mail or chat rooms. Tell your children to report to you immediately if they receive any type of threatening communication.

4. **Filtering information.** Consider using technology to help you block, monitor, or otherwise control your children's access to inappropriate or illegal information on the Internet. Here are a few companies that offer filtering software: CyberPatrol.com, NetNanny.com, Cybersitter.com, and SurfWatch.com. You can visit these Web sites and download the software for a fee. Please talk to your Internet provider about what other options are available or visit its homepage. For example, on the AOL home page, parents can click on. Keep Your Kids Safe in Cyberspace and get helpful information.

5. **Penalties for threatening e-mails and Web sites.** Please remind your children that they can be subject to school discipline and/or criminal prosecution for sending threatening e-mails or creating violent Web sites from their home computers-even if they intend the message as a joke.

6. **Resources on Internet safety.** Do as much research as you can on Internet safety. Here are a few Web sites to get you started:
   - **Tips from the FBI on avoiding on-line predators:** www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguide.htm
   - **The Police Notebook from Oklahoma University:** Safety on the internet: www.ou.edu/oupd/kidtool.htm. This site gives you tips and tools for keeping children safe online, a list of further resources, a guide for children to read, and more.

By working together, we can safeguard children and guide them to take advantage of the positive opportunities that the internet offers. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.