10/29/13

Principal Jones

Anywhere High School

Anytown, MA 00000

Dear Parent,

A recent poll done by the Pew Internet Research Group[[1]](#footnote-1) last May found that 40% of adolescents do not set their privacy settings on Facebook to fully private. Included in this report were these other statistics:

* 92% post their real name
* 91% post a photo of themselves
* 82% post their birth date
* 71% post the city or town where they live
* 62% post their relationship status
* 53% post their email address
* 24% post videos of themselves
* 20% post their cell phone number

What this means is that while 60% of our youth are taking some steps to protect their personal data, a significant number aren’t, making them vulnerable to problems ranging from identity theft to online harassment. As a Twenty-First Century Education leader, we are committed to helping our students become responsible digital citizens and achieve digital literacy as part of educating the whole student. Therefore, our school has a goal of %100 privacy setting awareness on Facebook, and to that end we’d like to invite you to join us in our first School-Wide Settings Day.

On [Day, Month year] our school community will ask kids and parents to log on to their computer at home and view together the profile as it appears publicly. Instructions on how to preview what your page looks like when viewed by Public users can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/help/288066747875915> . We ask that you and your child try this experiment to see what their and your Facebook page would look like if seen by anyone on its current settings. Take a few minutes to ask the following questions together:

1. How would you feel if your best friend saw this page as is?
2. How would you feel if your school principal saw this page as is?
3. How would you feel if your college admission officer saw this page as is?
4. How would you feel if your manager at your job saw this page as is?

If you are unsure how to change your Facebook settings to private, you can find instructions at how to set them at <http://www.facebook.com/help/325807937506242> .

Please sign and have your child return this letter to their homeroom teacher by [Date] and please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about School-Wide Settings Day.

Sincerely,

Principal Ann Jones

We checked our privacy settings on Facebook for School-Wide Settings Day.

We prefer not to participate.

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Parent or Guardian Signature Date

1. <http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2013/Teens-Social-Media-And-Privacy/Main-Report/Part-2.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)