



Pine Road Elementary School

3737 Pine Road
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
215.938.0290

www.lmtsd.org

Brian J. Swank, Ed.D.
Principal

Mrs. Sharon Franciosa
Assistant Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are certainly aware, technology continues to play a role in nearly every aspect of our lives. We use technology tools to simplify our lives. Technology helps us to be more connected at work, school, and home. In the school setting our children access technology as part of comprehensive lesson plans facilitated by teachers.

In less structured settings, outside of the school day, we are hearing more each week about issues that unfettered access to technology is causing for our students at Pine Road. Our students are openly sharing with us that they are communicating on social media sites that are designed for children much older than our students here at Pine Road. We are also seeing conflict arise from children texting while unsupervised.

As an educator and parent, I encourage you to ***NOT*** permit your children to have unsupervised access to technology. I encourage you to tell your children, “absolutely not” when they ask about having social media accounts (Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok, Twitter, etc) while they are in elementary school. We have documented instances of children being exposed to inappropriate content on these applications. Please do not assume that just because your child isn’t using a specific app that they are not exposed to inappropriate content, as we are aware that interactive websites exist as well. You should be reading and viewing everything your child does online every day. Their safety could depend upon it.

When it comes to personal devices at school it is important to remember that phones are to be left at home or turned off in book bags. Connected watches are to be left at home or set to airplane mode during the day. If a child is using a device or a watch during the school day, for something other than telling time, we will ask that it be turned off and placed in their bag. A second instance will require that a parent pick up the device from the office.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to remain engaged and vigilant at all times regarding the online content that children view. The American Academy of Pediatrics released findings from a comprehensive study on the impact of social media on students and families. More information on the study and tips for monitoring students’ social media can be found at: <https://www.parenting.com/gallery/social-media-monitoring-kids>

Following are some resources we have found to be helpful in assisting our young learners navigate the internet, as well as tools for families looking to parent in a digital age.

<https://www.safesearchkids.com/>
www.smartsocial.com

Please do not hesitate in reaching out to me here at Pine Road should you have any questions. Additionally, your student’s teacher or counselor can serve as a resource if you have concerns.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Swank, Ed.D.

Principal