

March 6, 2017

Dear Huntington Parent/Guardian,

Within recent weeks, we have been concerned about students' use of cell phones and social media, both in school and outside of school. The District policy on cell phones does not prohibit the use or possession of cell phones in school, however, cell phones are becoming more and more of a distraction, and we are being made aware, almost daily, of inappropriate usage such as cyberbullying and sexting.

On Friday morning, **March 24th**, beginning at 8:15, we are hosting speakers who will be delivering a very strong message to our middle school students on sexting (see below). We will be in the cafeteria, and the schedule is as follows:

- 8:15-9:00- 6th grade
- 9:00-9:45- 7th grade
- 9:45-10:30- 8th grade

"The Northern District of New York, Federal Public Defender's Office has created a school educational program to reach Jr. High and High School students about the consequences and dangers of sexting. Our program is intended to make students aware of the very severe consequences of sexting, which could be construed as production of child pornography, exploitation of a child, attempted enticement of a child, possession, receipt and distribution of child pornography. Our office is attempting to educate the students and be proactive before they are actually charged with a crime. Presenters are Assistant Federal Public Defender, Randi Bianco and Investigator Wendy Tiffin. Randi has been an attorney for 26 years and has handled eight death penalty cases, multiple murder cases, numerous sexual offense cases including child pornography and exploitation. Wendy is a retired Captain of Detectives from Syracuse Police Department with 27 years of investigative experience including sex offenses. The highlight of the program is an audio tape presentation of a young male caught sexting who is currently serving a five-year sentence in federal prison."

Please sign the form below if you do NOT want your child to attend this presentation and return it to me in the office. Otherwise, your child will attend the presentation with his/her classmates and teachers. Please feel free to join us. This is a great way to start (or continue) the conversation about the appropriate use of electronic devices and social media. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call or come in.

Respectfully,

Joanne M. Harlow, Principal

I, _____, the parent of _____ (student), do NOT want my child to attend the presentation on sexting.

Parent Signature

Date