ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

We're constantly connected – whether it's text messaging, apps, social media, online games, website or emails – and that makes us all vulnerable to thieves looking to take advantage of us when we least expect it.

Thieves will go to any length to learn about you. Asking yourself these questions will help keep your personal information safe:

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

► **Am I posting sensitive information?** This means addresses, phone numbers, your birthdate, Social Security number, driver's license number or financial information.

► **Should I share this?** Be careful posting details about your life, and don't answer questions – online or over the phone – from anyone you don't know asking personal questions.

► **What are the privacy settings on my accounts?** Look through the settings of the social media you use to be sure only people you absolutely trust see your posts.

► **Should I click** Unexpected links and attachments in messages might contain viruses or spyware that the sender doesn't even know about. Check with the sender first. If you don't know the sender, just trash the message.

► **Is this site legitimate?** Malicious websites can look identical to trusted sites, but the URL or email address might use a different spelling or domain (e.g., .net instead of .com). When in doubt, avoid the website until you're 100% sure.

► **Is my software up to date?** Check to be sure you're running the latest operating system, anti-virus software and web browsers.

► **Is it too good to be true?** Free games and other things might be tempting, but they can come at a cost to your privacy. Only download from trusted sources, even if you might have to pay.

► **Are my passwords safe?** Be sure your passwords include a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols. Make them hard enough that someone can't guess them, and don't share them with anyone.

► **Am I using free Wi-Fi?** Many public Wi-Fi hotspots – like at libraries, coffee shops and malls – aren't secure and might not protect your passwords, messages, photos and other date. Check with an employee before connecting.

OKLAHOMA Education

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