



FOXBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Amy A. Berdos, Ed.D.
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Dear Foxborough Families,

We are writing to follow up on last week's cancellation of our live video and audio conference meetings for students through Zoom. The temporary suspension of these meetings was the result of a "hacking" incident that occurred during a previous eighth-grade Zoom session. Knowing that the cancellation of these check-ins was disappointing to both our students and staff, we quickly began investigating this incident so that we could determine if it was safe for us to continue using the Zoom platform with our students. Our research and access to newly discovered privacy and security concerns with ZOOM left us reconsidering its uses for remote learning.

Informed by this new information, our administrators, teachers, and technology leaders concluded that even with the use of all available safeguards in Zoom, we are not able to ensure a safe experience for our students and staff using this platform. It is with this determination and the advice of the Foxborough Police Department that we are permanently suspending the use of Zoom with students.

We have heard from many parents about the positive impact live video and audio check-in meetings have had on their children, and we know it is critical for our students to feel connected to our school community. As a result, we are expanding the use of the Microsoft Teams Video and Audio conferencing platform while we continue to investigate other options.

Additionally, we understand that social distancing guidelines likely mean students are spending more time using technology and accessing the Internet from home. In light of these circumstances, we encourage you to speak to your child about Internet safety and carefully monitor & evaluate the websites your student is accessing.

A resource that provides many useful tips for parents regarding internet safety is Common Sense Media. You can access the Common Sense Media website using the following link: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for further resources or support.

Sincerely,

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