SAMPLE PARENT INFORMATION LETTER
CYBERSAFE: BAD CONNECTION? – ONLINE SAFETY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our class will soon participate in a digital citizenship and online safety lesson using Minecraft Education titled ***CyberSafe: Bad Connection?***. This interactive experience is designed for learners ages 11–15 and helps students build practical skills for recognizing and responding to unsafe online interactions. Because the lesson includes realistic examples of harmful online behavior, we want to ensure families are informed and comfortable with their child's participation.

About the Learning Experience

Students will explore three short, story based scenarios inside Minecraft that reflect situations young people may encounter online. Throughout the lesson, students practice:-based scenarios inside Minecraft that reflect situations young people may encounter online. Throughout the lesson, students practice:

- Identifying red flags such as manipulation, harassment, secrecy, and pressure
- Recognizing unsafe requests for personal information
- Using safety tools (block, report, leave)
- Setting healthy boundaries
- Knowing when and how to seek help from a trusted adult
- Understanding how online actions contribute to a digital footprint

All scenarios are fictional and designed for prevention and skill building, not for discussing or investigating real incidents.-building, not for discussing or investigating real incidents.

Sensitive Content Notice

To help students learn to recognize unsafe behavior, the game includes examples of:

- Requests for personal information (age, school, email, home address)
- Manipulation and grooming tactics
- Peer pressure and exclusion
- Harassment, including a sexist comment
- Threatening or intimidating messages in the final act

These examples are presented as unsafe behaviors that students learn to identify and respond to appropriately.

Student Wellbeing & Opt-out Options-Out Options
We recognize that some students may find certain scenarios uncomfortable. Students may:

- Pause or step out at any time
- Choose an alternative, non-Minecraft pathway (Scenario Cards or written responses)
- Speak privately with the teacher or counselor if something feels upsetting
- No student will be asked to explain why they choose an alternative activity.

TO PREPARE LEARNERS FOR THIS EXPERIENCE, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY.

Why Online Safety Matters
Children connect, learn, and play online every day. Most interactions are positive, but some situations can be confusing or unsafe. Families play a powerful role in helping children build healthy digital habits and know what to do when something doesn't feel right.

1. Protect Personal Information
Help your child understand that some information should *never* be shared online.

Keep private:

Full name	Email
School name	Photos that reveal location
Home address	Daily routines or plans
Phone number	

Family Tip: Create a simple rule: *"If we wouldn't share it with a stranger, we don't share it online."*

2. Recognize Red Flags
Teach your child to pause and check in when something feels "off."

Common warning signs include:

- Someone asking for personal information
- Pressure to keep secrets from adults
- Offers of gifts, rewards, or "exclusive" items
- Messages that feel rude, threatening, or uncomfortable

- Someone trying to move the conversation to private messages

Family Tip: Encourage your child to trust their instincts. Feeling uneasy is a sign to stop and ask for help.

3. Set Healthy Boundaries
Children should know they can say **no** online just as they can in real life.

Helpful phrases:
- "I don't share that online."
- "I'm not comfortable with this."
- "I need to check with my parent first."

Family Tip: Practice these responses together so your child feels confident using them.

4. Use Safety Tools

Most apps and games include built-in tools to help keep users safe.

Show your child how to:
- Block someone
- Report harmful behavior
- Leave or mute a chat
- Adjust privacy settings

Family Tip: Review these tools together before your child starts using a new app or game.

5. Encourage Open Communication
Let your child know they can always come to you—without fear of getting in trouble.

You might say:
- "If something online makes you uncomfortable, I want to know so I can help."
- "You won't be in trouble for telling me."

Family Tip: Keep devices in shared spaces when possible and check in regularly about online experiences.

6. Model Healthy Digital Habits
Children learn from what adults do.

Try to:
- Take breaks from screens

- Avoid oversharing online
- Talk openly about how you decide what to post

Family Tip: Create a simple family agreement about screen time, privacy, and respectful behavior.

If Your Child Shares a Concern

- Stay calm, listen, and thank them for telling you.
- Save or screenshot messages if needed.
- Contact your school counselor or administrator if the situation involves threats, harassment, or safety concerns.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

https://www.takethis.org/2023/11/radicalization-games-primer/

https://bhr.stern.nyu.edu/publication/gaming-the-system-how-extremists-exploit-gaming-sites-and-wha...

https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-4-game-on/id1840199177?i=1000727395771

https://gifct.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/GIFCT-25WG-0225-EG-Resources-1.1.pdf

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE

Please review the information above and indicate whether your child has permission to participate in ***CyberSafe: Bad Connection?***.

Student Name: _____

Teacher/Class: _____

Please select one option:

☐ **Yes, my child has permission to participate** in the ***CyberSafe*: *Bad Connection?*** Minecraft lesson.

☐ **No, my child will participate in an alternative activity** covering the same learning objectives without using Minecraft.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature:_____

Date: _____

If you have any questions about the lesson, content, or opt-out options, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for partnering with us to help students build strong, safe online communities.

Warm regards,

Teacher Name
School/Program Name