# **Information Security for Parents**

### What is information security?

Information security means protecting the privacy of your personal information, so that bad actors cannot access it.

# Why is it important to protect your information online?

To guard against identity theft.



To protect your financial resources.

To prevent unwanted online surveillance and stalking.

To keep electronic devices working.

## Tips for Protecting Yourself Online



**Use strong passwords.** What is a strong password?

- At least 16 characters long, including letters, numbers, and symbols.
- Unique, only used in one place! Using the same password for multiple sites is risky.
- Not obvious. Avoid using words like "password" or family names and birthdays.

Pause before you click. Bad actors often send emails or messages including links that could give them access to your personal information.



- Do not click on links from unknown numbers or email addresses.
- Some bad actors pose as official government or education agencies. Be sure to check the url!
  - Official government website urls end in: .gov or mn.gov
  - Official school website urls end in: **.edu or .org**
  - Example of a url that may be a scam: www.persimmongroveschool.com
  - Example of a url that is likely safe: www.persimmongroveschool.edu

#### Additional Tips:



- Do not send money to unknown people or organizations online.
- Do not make purchases or enter sensitive information when you are using a public wifi connection.
- Perform software updates on devices. This helps keep your security up to date!

#### **Information Security Resources**

- https://fraud.org/
- https://stopthinkconnect.org/
- https://consumer.ftc.gov/identity-theft-and-onlinesecurity/online-privacy-and-security

For more information, visit: <a href="https://imaa.net/whole-family-systems/">https://imaa.net/whole-family-systems/</a>
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