



# SCHOOL CITY OF HOBART

32 East 7TH Street, Hobart, IN 46342  
Phone: 219-942-8885 Fax: 219-942-0081  
<http://www.hobart.k12.in.us>

*"Building College and Career Ready Brickies"*

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Please partner with us to stop Cyberbullying! Stop Online Social Aggression! Cyberbullies use the Internet or cell phones to send hurtful messages or post information to damage the reputation and friendships of others.**

Please visit our web site ([www.hobart.k12.in.us](http://www.hobart.k12.in.us)) for helpful guidelines to prevent your child from being victimized by or engaging in online harmful behavior. It is located on the front page of our web site under Announcements. If you are unable to visit the web site, we would be happy to mail you a copy of the entire guidelines or contact your school for a copy. A one page summary is located on the back side of this letter. In addition, please visit [www.isafe.org](http://www.isafe.org) to register for an account to gain access to the parent portal. Online training, prevention measures and tips are offered.

### **SIMPLE EXPECTATIONS FROM YOUR CHILD:**

- Don't make threats online.
- Report threats or distressing material.

### **ACTIONS and OPTIONS:**

- Calmly and strongly tell the cyberbully to stop and to remove any harmful material.
- Ignore the cyberbully by leaving the online environment, blocking communications, or both.
- File a complaint with the Internet provider, cell phone company and web site provider.
- Send the cyberbully's parents a letter that includes the evidence of cyberbullying.
- Demand that the actions stop and harmful material be removed.
- Contact an attorney to send a letter or file a lawsuit against the cyberbully's parents.
- Contact the police if the cyberbullying involves threats of violence, coercion, intimidation based on hate or bias, or any form of sexual exploitation.
- Do not hesitate to contact our Brickie Safety Tip Hotline (942-TIPS) or administrators at the school for assistance.

### **PREVENT YOUR CHILD FROM BEING A CYBERBULLY:**

- Talk with your child about the value of treating others with kindness and your expectation that your child act in accord with this value online.
- Make it clear that if your child engages in irresponsible online behavior, you will restrict Internet access, activate monitoring software, and review all online activity. Talk about the implications of cyberbullying that could lead to criminal arrest or civil litigation. Also, discuss the point that if your child misuses email or a cell phone that is on a family account, the entire account may be terminated.

Our children must value others and use their digital citizenship responsibly. In addition, their online activity is a digital footprint of the type of person they are. It may be the very thing that prevents a college or an employer from accepting or hiring them. We must help our youth understand the consequences of harmful online behavior. Please partner with us!

Sincerely,

Peggy Buffington, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools

The School City of Hobart does not discriminate on the bases of race creed, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, or disability, including limited English proficiency.