First Avenue Internet & Phone Safety Night

<u>Helpful Websites</u>
Both of these websites offer tips to parents for talking with your teens about phone and computer safety.

http://www.commonsensemedia.org

http://www.onguardonline.gov

http://www.bewebsmart.com/

http://www.safeteens.com/

Suggestions for Parents:

1. Ask your internet and cell provider about the options they have for parental monitoring and control. Most providers have quite a few different levels of monitoring and control that you can use.   Many parental control options are not very expensive (some are as low as $5) and can added on your regular service package on a monthly basis.. Some options allow you to turn off certain phones at certain times of the evening, monitor texts, app usage, etc.

2. Keep your computer in a central location so that you can keep an eye on what your kids are doing.

3. Be familiar with the most recent apps that teens are using. Do a periodic search on www.google.com or www.yahoo.com with terms like "dangerous apps for teens". This will bring up multiple articles with various takes on recent apps that tweens and teens are using. Read more than one article as some do not list all of the dangerous apps. Some of the websites listed above, especially www.commonsensemedia.org, have detailed descriptions and reports about some of these apps., so they are a great place to start your search.

4. Talk regularly with your kids about the dangers of various apps. The two websites listed above have helpful suggestions about how to start those conversations.

5. Check your kids privacy settings on their phone and computer. Location settings may make them more vulnerable to being found by strangers. Sometimes privacy settings can be controlled on the settings page of the phone/computer, but sometimes they also need to be set on each app or program.

6. Talk to your kids about the liabilities associated with defaming others online. Not only is talking about others mean, but some kids have faced serious consequences with schools and law enforcement for bullying and/or defaming kids online.

(over)

Parental Control Software:

The following are a couple of articles about software that is available to help you keep an eye on your son's daughter's computer usage. These lists should get you started, but once you decide you like a few of the programs then you may want to research reviews on those programs before your final purchase. Please know that First Avenue is not endorsing these products. Our desire is to show you some of the software options that are available so that you have a good start on your research.

http://www.topsoftwarereviews.net/

http://www.webwatcher.com/parental-control-software

http://buy.norton.com/en-us/mf/productDetails/MggKMjExMDk3ByIwMDAxMDAwAw==/

Ways that Students Can Hide Apps:

There are many ways for students to hide apps so that parents don't know that they are using certain apps.   I found the following sides just by googling "hiding apps".   Again, this is not a definitive list, but a great way to get started on your research.

http://www.ehow.com/how_7676136_hide-iphone-apps.html

http://osxdaily.com/2013/03/28/hide-apps-iphone-ipad/

http://www.appszoom.com/android_applications/hid

Other Helpful Articles:

http://www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/blog/11-sites-and-apps-kids-are-heading-to-after-facebook

For Older Teenagers:

An interesting article for parents with teens who drive:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/apps-for-parents-curb-distracted-teen-drivers/2014/04/19/2346c724-c802-11e3-bf7a-be01a9b69cf1_story.html?wprss=rss_traffic