Dear Parents,

As educators, the protection of our students’ privacy is not only paramount but also mandated through state and federal law, like the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As explained in our back-to-school letter, under FERPA, we and our technology providers are responsible for protecting student data, including data that is collected through digital formats, like learning applications and technologies. As such, our district only uses and only approves the use by teachers and students in the classroom of technologies and applications that adhere to strict data protection procedures and security [link to school or district privacy policy here]. Doing so helps ensure only authorized individuals with a legitimate educational interest can access personally identifiable information about your child in order to successfully fulfill their responsibilities. This also ensures that the technologies used align with privacy standards, class curricula, and learning outcomes.

Given the breadth of learning applications and technologies available online, you or your child may be interested in using these kinds of tools to assist with classwork and learning. However, if these tools have not been vetted in a similar manner to our district’s vetting process, you may be putting your child and your own privacy at risk. Among these risks are:

* Age-inappropriate content or content misaligned with learning standards;
* Unmoderated or inappropriately moderated activities and discussions;
* Sharing of your child’s data (or any data on your family’s devices) to unidentified third parties;
* Targeted marketing and advertising to your child;
* Introduction of malware or viruses to your computer;
* Creation of data profiles based on student data and online interactions; and
* Increased potential for cyberbullying and surveillance of your child.

To limit potential privacy violations, we encourage you to review our district’s student privacy policy here [insert link] and to do the same with technologies you use or are considering to assist with your child’s learning. To aid you in vetting privacy policies and understanding the potential uses of your child’s data, The [Common Sense Privacy Program](https://privacy.commonsense.org/) provides expert evaluations of edtech tools’ privacy policies to assess the websites and online tools of many of the tools we use, as well as others you may be considering using with your child.

Thank you for continuing to be collaborative partners in your child’s learning and privacy protection. As always, should you have any questions about our policies or ways to improve privacy for your student at home and online, please contact us.