

KEYA PAHA COUNTY SCHOOL

Superintendent-Dennis Peters

Principal-Luke Wroblewski

P.O. Box 219

101 Football Avenue

Springview, NE 68778

Keya Paha County High School
402-497-3501

Fax
402-497-4321

Springview Elementary
402-497-2621

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to share some information with you to help continue to keep our children safe. I encourage you to monitor your children's social media as there is a dangerous social media phenomenon called the "Momo Challenge." Please use this as an opportunity to remind your children not to accept any invitation to play from an unknown number and not to click on unidentified links.

The "Momo Challenge" can be found on Facebook and/or through the "WhatsApp" (a free smartphone messaging application) and is disturbing in nature. The "challenge" involves a frightening avatar making contact with a child from an unknown number or name. The child is asked to perform various small tasks and then escalates to more serious violent acts, and requires photos as proof. Some tasks have even led to suicide. Students as young as first grade have allegedly acted on some directions from the challenge. The "Momo" also threatens those who do not perform the tasks.

One of the first clues for parents to be concerned with is the image of a Japanese statue of a woman with bulging eyes and scary features. Children are given the series of tasks to finally meet the "Momo."

I also encourage you to remind your children to change email and social media passwords frequently and block unknown numbers inviting them to play immediately. Currently, there are no confirmed uses of this "Challenge" in the Keya Paha County Schools, however, I feel it is important to share information to help build awareness and keep our children safe.

Sincerely,



Lucas Wroblewski, Principal
Keya Paha County Schools