



COUNTRYSIDE MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

5852 EHREN CUT-OFF · LAND O' LAKES, FL 34639

(813) 996-0991 · (813) 996-0993 FAX

WWW.CMCSMONTESSORI.COM

A Very Serious Conversation

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Dear Parents,

I know you are the type of parents who would not let your child walk three blocks to the convenience store by themselves. You would not let them eat an unhealthy diet, watch inappropriate TV or movies, or read any book he or she wants without your approval. You know the names of your child's friends and their parents. You lock your doors at night to protect your children and family.

But, do you really know what your child is texting, posting or following on Instagram, or reading in other's posts/texts? Did you know that you can text with strangers via Instagram if they are added to a group you are following? I can ASSURE you, what we have discovered at school, and what I am aware of from my years at Academy at the Farm, is that the majority of you DON'T really know.

There are many social norms that have been challenged over the past generations; things like sexual freedom, liberal drug use, and the unrestricted "freedom" of speech. All of these are potential concerns for parents today. But, in my opinion, social media is your biggest threat.

Totally inappropriate language, bullying, threats, etc. are more commonly accepted and shared by your children than you would want to believe. I am here to assure you that vulgar language, inappropriate pictures, and suggestive activity are among what is becoming a "commonly" acceptable culture for your children. Many are becoming desensitized to the social media culture and its threat to appropriate morals and guidelines for our children.

Our CMCS children may be some of the finer young people I have been associated with in my career, but they are NOT immune to this social disease. I am compelled to share my beliefs with you in a very honest and direct manner.

If you are thinking, and have a comfort level, "Not my child," I so hope you are right when you check, regularly and consistently, **all** of your child's social media communication. If because you believe, "Not my child," therefore no need to check, ***you have been warned.*** Be diligent, parents.

Your child's "privacy" is not the issue; the issue is your responsibility.

For the love of children and from my heart,

Michael G. Rom, Ph. D.
Principal