

Title of Session: Cyber 3 - Sexting

Moderator: Davina Pruitt-Mentle

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Room: Cyber 3 Group

DavinaP: Please take a moment and just introduce yourself and your interest in the topic

MaryH: My name is Mary, and I teach 6th grade in Virginia

MaryH: I recently led a field trip where a number of students were texting each other during the bus ride

BJB2: I'm a retired teacher located in Pennsylvania. I always find Davina offers great insights into how to teach students to be safe online

JeffC: I'm Jeff Cooper, on Tapped In Helpdesk, in Forest Grove Oregon and like to lurk in professional development meetings...

JenniferMe: I'm Jennifer, and I teach 4th grade in Virginia

JenniferMe: I've had a steady increase of students bring electronic texting devices to school, and I fear that they are using them in many ways that I am not prepared for.

BJB2 . o O (Virginia is well represented today!)

DavinaP: Researcher and policy any ed tech policy research and outreach faculty UMD

DavinaP: sexting has become a hot topic of late--and in VA many news articles

JenniferMe: I also have students often using some social networking sites off of property, but find that I serve as their "police" on that in many instances.

DavinaP: as defined sexting...is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.

MaryH: I'm imagining this phenomenon is too new for most schools to have official policies on how to handle it.

DavinaP: I am interested in hearing what issues have arisen around this topic in your area

JenniferMe: Our school is currently developing such policies, even if we haven't encountered our first official "sexting" breach

BJB2: we had a local girl arrested and charged with porn for sending a photo

JenniferMe: we have encountered cyberbullying within our school, as well as a few other social problems that stemmed from students using "club penguin"

BJB2 . o O (knee jerk reactions at this stage)

MaryH: I haven't had any direct contact with this issue... yet

DavinaP: Interesting Jennifer and remind me to come back to those topics after we have explored sexting more....

DavinaP: I believe the main issues that arise with sexting is that right now the way the laws are written (or not written) children under age can still be tagged with a criminal record for possession and worse distribution of porn

JenniferMe: I think that's just it, Mary... I fear that it's only a matter of time

JenniferMe: Are they thinking of lessening those charges?

DavinaP: many --several in the state att general office throughout various states consider this to be too severe...

JenniferMe: I'm wondering about the student who would be unknowingly sent some of these sexts without responsibility and being caught with them

JenniferMe: (and how those charges would be too severe)

MaryH: or those "younger" students who may barely understand what they are sending

JenniferMe: I think it's just a problem with informing the students about appropriateness

DavinaP: Legislative Responses...

DavinaP: Vermont lawmakers introduced a bill in April 2009 to legalize the consensual exchange of graphic images between two people 13 to 18 years old. Passing along such images to others would remain a crime

DavinaP: In Ohio, a county prosecutor and two lawmakers proposed a law that would reduce sexting from a felony to a first degree misdemeanor, and eliminate the possibility of a teenage offender being labeled a sex offender for years. The proposal was supported by the parents of Jessie Logan, a Cincinnati 18-year-old who died by suicide after the naked picture of herself which she sexted was forwarded to nearly everyone in her high school

DavinaP: Utah lawmakers lessened the penalty for sexting for someone younger than 18 to a misdemeanor from a felony

JenniferMe: I'm wondering if students, or children (even up to 18) truly understand that what they send it not truly private - just like online...

DavinaP: an interesting report (for later) can be found at http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/sextech/PDF/SexTech_Summary.pdf

MaryH: or that even if someone doesn't forward a picture, they still have it on their phone to show anyone

JenniferMe: exactly

DavinaP: while the legal aspect will start to settle after awhile--I assume (as both of you shared earlier) things will soften and policies will be put into place regarding under age etc... the fact still remains...

DavinaP: students need to understand the consequences of sending info digitally --the same themes or guidelines play out as with other online reputation guidelines...

DavinaP: assume what you send or post will be seen by everyone--because it will probably or at least it will seem like it...

JenniferMe: social standards so diligently taught in schools need to be shared in virtual situations too - respect, caring, etc... across all forms of communication

DavinaP: understand that what you post can come back and revisit you several years down the road...college admin--that internship/scholarship you wanted --job

DavinaP: it effects also your employment possibilities

SusanR joined the room.

JenniferMe: And some students really can't see that far down the road

DavinaP: can you think of any good "in the news" efforts of folks being caught online or things sent online coming back to haunt them?

SusanR listens

JenniferMe: this sounds silly - but that 20/20 where they'd catch online predators

JenniferMe: that's the only "good" news that I have encountered

MaryH: all things Enron

JenniferMe: ah, yes...

MaryH: not very accessible for elementary students...

DavinaP: how about several of the Miss America contestants?

DavinaP: Michael Phelps

MaryH: I'm wondering if there are age-level appropriate simulations that help kids understand -- in a safe, controlled environment -- what it feels like for what they think in private information to suddenly go public.

DavinaP: who's the politician? perhaps too many to list but one was just in the news again today

SusanR: Edwards

DavinaP: YES!

JenniferMe: we've gone over the importance (in my class) of keeping personal information safe - but nothing about sharing of files/images

JenniferMe: I think some sort of simulation would work really well

JenniferMe: or a relative story involving a student their age

DavinaP: Mary --Netsmartz has some GREAT video clips that help students realize the impact...not a simulation but close to it

MaryH: perfect

DavinaP: Unfortunately we know from newer brain research that thinking through long term consequences etc... for most doesn't fully develop until their 20's and for ADHD and ADD even later..so..

DavinaP: what we have found to be promising is to instead push to share with students how to positively craft their messaging online

DavinaP: to tell them not to send something or what not to post sometimes doesn't click...

MaryH: true

DavinaP: but when you share instead the benefits of what others have received because of what they have posted (in a positive manner) makes them think a little deeper about

what messaging they could use to help themselves

JenniferMe: and the "notes" have to be very specific. You're right - positive messaging instruction will become habitual if reinforced often enough

DavinaP: take a few minutes to look at <http://www.netsmartz.org/netteens.htm>

DavinaP: Here's another article with a short video clip that might be powerful for students to see --although it sounds like we might need to find something a little younger for your age groups

DavinaP: <http://www.lipstickwisdom.com/category/teenagers-and-sexting/>

JenniferMe: I am thinking that they should work this into the family life education in our schools

MaryH: Yes!

JenniferMe: might be a good time to address it - since they need permission to attend those courses anyways

DavinaP: I agree working into several areas but health or family life would be a good start

DavinaP: now VA does include internet safety lessons I know how does your school school system address these issues

MaryH: I've seen formal lessons handled by counselors

JenniferMe: our school IT person comes around and does lessons in each classroom

DavinaP: Jeff how does Oregon address or your school/school system address these issues

DavinaP: Mary and Jennifer--if the "tapped teacher" comes around what topics do they cover and do they come back or how many topics are covered in a year

JenniferMe: he only comes once a year - will come more if asked to "recover" some material

MaryH: We had a counselor come several times to discuss different internet-related safety issues

JenniferMe: we have a counselor that comes to speak once a month - but usually never talks internet

MaryH: one whole session was on cyber-bullying

DavinaP: Jennifer is the counselor to cover internet safety?

DavinaP: sorry just trying to grasp how internet safety is covered in the schools you are in'

JenniferMe: no - but she did cover cyber-bullying after we had an episode last year (she covered it this year)

JenniferMe: the IT specialist does the generally online safety, only briefly touching on cyber bullying during that lesson.

JenniferMe: He will come back if asked though, in order to be more specific

DavinaP: Jennifer--got it so then who covers the internet safety--the IT person? and if so, what topics are covered related to internet safety --as I assume they are also covering tech integration etc...

DavinaP: Mary in your school it looks like the internet safety person is a counselor ?

DavinaP: what topics do they cover?

JenniferMe: he usually starts with stranger danger, which they are all very familiar with - and examples of how that will carry over online. He then developed safety guidelines WITH the students, using examples when possible

MaryH: Internet safety isn't all he does, but he wraps it into many of his lessons.

DavinaP: Susan who covers it in your school and which state is that?

JenniferMe: giving away personal information, what the signs are for people/companies searching for information, possible "tricks" they might use to get information from you (the students)

DavinaP: all good things to share with students..

BJB2 . o O (Susan is in Canada)

DavinaP: what does everyone think about the stranger danger push?

SusanR: We do have an internet safety policy .. Canada ..Ontario is the province

DavinaP: is internet safety covered in the curriculum in Canada

DavinaP: or in your school?

SusanR: since I am a sub .. I am not sure

SusanR: can look it up

DavinaP: what do folks think about stranger danger campaigns? have they worked not worked etc...

MaryH: I think regular, repeated stranger danger education is absolutely necessary -- online and in "real" life

SusanR: I know they sign a document

JenniferMe: I agree, Mary. It has really helped my students make it more "personal"

JenniferMe: the internet aspect, that is

JenniferMe: they know there are real people on the other end

MaryH: I've had students who have successfully run away from people who were later caught.

MaryH: Very scary.

SusanR: we have had speakers from the police force in schools alerting students to predators

MaryH: But they knew exactly what to do, thank god.

SusanR: http://www.safecanada.ca/link_e.asp?category=3&topic=94

DavinaP: thanks Susan!

DavinaP: well there are many who loudly share that stranger danger is the wrong messaging...

MaryH: How so?

DavinaP: I am on the fence (just my own viewpoint)

SusanR: I missed part of the session did you mention netsmartz....

DavinaP: on one side I work closely with law enforcement and other entities and actually do see the number of online creeps (can not think of another word) there are..

DavinaP: yet I do know that research has actually shown..

JenniferMe: I'm lacking another way, if not stranger danger discussion, to make it real to these kids. any ideas?

DavinaP: that online predators is not as bad as we thought- (see Pew and Internet Life project report and the Berkman Internet safety task force study
<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/research/isttf>

SusanR: there was an interesting case here
<http://www.thestar.com/News/GTA/article/416907>

DavinaP: instead guess what the #1 issues for kids online is?

MaryH: I'm stumped

SusanR: me too

DavinaP: cyberbullying--ramps up in middle and increases thru high school

MaryH: yes -- that I believe

JenniferMe: me too

DavinaP: now security folks will tell you identity theft--as the number one increasing number of cases--age group--is middle and high schools

MaryH: Our counselor spoke with the students about the much-televised case in which one student's mom cyberbullied the girl who killed herself

SusanR: Yes, I heard about that case

DavinaP: but the Berkman report shares the number concern is cyber bullying--read the report along with the sexting report (links found within) when you have a chance--VERY interesting

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall...what a fast hour!

DavinaP: the danger campaign I think are still powerful--but I also think positive crafting of what to do or how to positive behave online and the benefits you can reap from that behavior are also VERY powerful

JenniferMe: I agree

MaryH: good point to keep in mind

JenniferMe: Thank you for the information and resources!

BJB2: The next C3 discussion is June 1.

SusanR: Thanks

DavinaP: Before closing any last questions? comments?

BJB2: Davina, want to continue the topic?

MaryH: The site with the clips is very helpful -- thank you!

BJB2: . o O (the more educators collaborate and learn what others are doing to problem solve and address issues, the easier it is for us all)

DavinaP: remember awareness and sharing with students is most important--push them to understand that crafting positive messages is good and the consequences (neg ones--many of you knew of several stories to share) can also help

BJB2: anyone have any requests for a topic?

DavinaP: thank all for joining I hope you will return next month

DavinaP: BJ I'll send out another message regarding topic--perhaps net banging another hot topic

DavinaP: good night all

MaryH: good night!

JenniferMe: thank you!

BJB2: nods to Davina. Thanks

SusanR: goodnight and thank you again,