Planning

Mop the Net Day!

A School Preparation Guide

for

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The School Safety Center

What is Mop the Net Day?

Mop the Net Day* is designed to give students a chance to delete, change, modify, add to or otherwise fix their online profiles. As students prepare for graduation and the world beyond, they need to understand that others may well be taking a close look at the persona they present on the Internet. Colleges, scholarship granters, coaches, potential employers and others may be looking to see if the student's online image matches that which they presented in their application materials.

In addition, as more and more adults become more comfortable with social networking, parents, grandparents, relatives and "real-life" friends may also go looking – and be unprepared for what they find.

Mop the Net Day is designed to provide a safe, supportive and secure opportunity for youth to begin to transition into the next stage of their lives.

What will it take to offer a Mop the Net Day in our school?

To offer a **Mop the Net Day** requires several things from a school and the school community. None of them are especially difficult; however, all are very important.

Starting with a **coordinating team, Mop the Net Day** takes:

1. A **commitment** on the part of the whole school:
   a. Time – to prepare staff and students; time to actually "mop the net,"
   b. Technologies – availability of school-based technologies and/or permission to bring in and use personal technologies,
   c. Awareness and Information sharing – background for staff, students and families as to the importance of and the processes used to implement **Mop the Net Day**.
2. **Trained staff and student volunteers** to help other students and peers - confidentially, if necessary:
   a. An understanding of social networking
   b. An awareness of digital safety issues
   c. Basic technology skills and knowledge
   d. Understanding and confidentiality.
3. **Possible filter override**: An opportunity for students to access personal social networking sites which they might not otherwise be able to access at school; check with your Ed Tech or IT staff,
4. **A support/intervention plan**, should any particularly negative, damaging or threating postings be found,
5. **Home-school communication** to inform and involve families,
6. **Buttons, pins or stickers - *and* cookies**. (These, of course, are optional, but they can really add to the success of the day.)
7. **A feedback** and evaluation process.

In addition, as there was pre-**Mop the Net Day** awareness and information sharing, there should also be post-activity follow-up. This can be built into various classes to include conversations and/or writing on:

   a. What everyone learned,
   b. Awareness and prevention activities for (younger) students,
   c. Changes students might suggest for this event in the future,
   d. Questions and issues which came up most often.