



Dear Parents,

The Logan City Police Department, Logan City School District and the Cache County Attorney's Office continue to see an increasing number of incidents where children and teenagers become victims/offenders of various crimes that involve modern technology, communication, and media. The intent of this letter is to reach out to parents as we work to protect the children in our community. We recognize the many great benefits of modern technology. Unfortunately, we are also seeing many great dangers.

Theft

Theft is a rising problem as juveniles possess and use increasingly expensive devices such as cell phones and iPods. We ask that parents assist in enforcing school policies regarding these devices. We also ask that parents encourage their children to secure valuable items in their hall locker if it is determined they are needed at school. Please advise them not to take valuable items in locker rooms as that is where most school thefts occur. If students utilize a P.E. locker for items of lesser value, please encourage them to lock it and make sure no one is watching them enter the combination on the lock.

Cyber Bullying

Mean-spirited teasing, bullying and harassment have always been a problem, but the problem is magnified with the use of modern communication. Juveniles, as with adults, are willing to make statements in an electronic form they would not make in person. Please monitor your children's text messages, email and online comments. Please report and/or encourage your child to report bullying related incidents.

Sexting

"Sexting" is commonly defined as the sharing of nude or partially nude photos and/or communication of a sexual manner. As we know cell phones and iPods are often equipped with digital cameras. Digital camera's combined with texting and/or internet access make photos very easy to forward. Photos and/or video have been taken in locker room settings, and then quickly forwarded to dozens of juveniles. While these incidents often start in what is perceived by juveniles as a playful manner, they can cause severe emotional harm, distract greatly from education, and are a violation of law.

Social Networking

Young teenagers and children often communicate freely with older juveniles and adults, whom they do not know, using social networking (Facebook, MySpace, etc). Young teenagers and children are often easily manipulated. Too often this communication turns to sexting, then arrangements are made to meet in person and tragic sex offenses are committed.

Always utilize internet filters and passwords on your computer/internet so children cannot use it without your permission. You might also consider using software that tracks or creates a record of your child's cell phone and/or

internet usage. It is not uncommon for teenagers to create two Facebook accounts, one that parents know about and one that they don't. They often create accounts using fake names, ages, and locations. Consider searching Google, MySpace, Facebook, etc using your child's name and/or nicknames to check for accounts that you are not aware of.

Internet Enabled Devices (I-pods, cell phones, Nintendo DSI, etc.)

Please be aware that iPods, cell phones, the Nintendo DSI and other devices often have internet capabilities. Children can access the internet via an iPod and your neighbor's wireless internet connection, if it is not password protected. Once on the internet they can communicate via text message, email, social networking, etc. This often takes place at night while parents are sleeping. Please consider storing and charging these devices in a parent's bedroom. This facilitates monitoring the text messages that your children/teenagers receive at night.

Cell Phones

Consider utilizing parental controls offered by cell phone carriers. It is often possible to restrict when, how and with whom your children communicate using these controls. Parental controls vary from company to company, so contact your provider for details.

Establish ground rules prior to allowing juveniles to use devices such as cell phones and/or the internet. You may choose to advise them that you will be randomly checking the phone/device as a condition of its use.

Additional information can be located at <http://www.loganutah.org>.

Please feel free to contact any police and/or school staff with questions or concerns and encourage your children to do the same. We welcome your input as we strive to continue the safety that our children enjoy in Logan and in School.

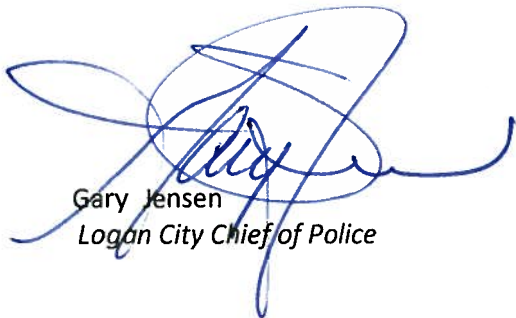
Sincerely,



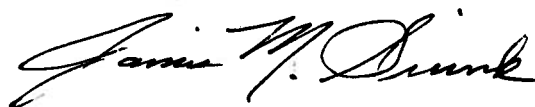
Dr. Marshal Garrett
Logan School District Superintendent



Randy Watts
Logan City Mayor



Gary Jensen
Logan City Chief of Police



James Swink
Cache County Attorney