



Daviess County Public Schools

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PHOTOGRAPH ATTACHED

DCMS to host KSP safety presentation

Kentucky State Police public affairs officer Trooper Corey King will visit Daviess County Middle School on Thursday, Dec. 5, to share information about social media safety.

Topics include potential dangers associated with online gaming and predators; the risks involved with divulging personal information that can put students or their families at risk; and dangers and legal consequences of posting inappropriate images.

Presentation schedule is as follows:

Grade 8 – 8:25 to 9:10 a.m.

Grade 6 – 9:25 to 10:10 a.m.

Grade 7 – 10:25 to 11:10 a.m.

DCMS Youth Services Center coordinator Amy Payne said, “Middle school students spend more time online and gaming than ever before. We need to make it a priority to educate our teens on how to stay safe in the digital world.”

King said his message is more essential than ever for the middle school audience. “It’s important to address the potential risks of social media with teens because they are more susceptible to them,” he said. “From cyberbullying to online predators to exchanging inappropriate images and messages, it seems like the dangers are endless. It is important to understand the impact that social media has on a teen’s development and to identify ways to utilize it to stay informed, recognize warning signs of trouble and intervene.”

King added that the concerns are real: “It is estimated nearly 500,000 predators are online at any given time, trolling the internet, looking for their next victim. Many of these predators are much older but create a fake profile posing as an appropriate-aged person. The internet, including social media access, is now the preferred method for predators to stalk and groom preteens and teens.”

However, King said children and youth can learn to manage social media safely and responsibly. “Teens today can use social media positively to be the best version of themselves – one post, one text, one snap at a time,” he said.

In addition to social media awareness, King also plans to address concerns about vaping and other substances. “Middle school is a time of transition, when young adolescents are more likely to be influenced by their peers and experiment with all sorts of new things,” he continued. “Unfortunately, the younger someone is when they experiment with drugs and alcohol, the more likely they are to become addicted. Vaping is widely abused with our youth from coast to coast. Research shows that while one in every 10 middle schoolers experiments with marijuana (including vaping THC) and nearly a quarter of those students use alcohol, unsuspecting parents often miss the warning signs that their child is abusing drugs. My goal is to highlight the problems and dangers involving vaping drugs. Parents and others must learn the warning signs to help protect our children and our community: Early intervention is key.”

Note to media – A photograph and background information about Trooper Corey King is attached for your convenience. Our media partners are invited to attend these presentations. DCMS is located at 1415 E. Fourth St. For more information, contact Amy Payne at amy.payne2@daviess.kyschools.us or 270-852-7611 (note “2” in email address) or Corey King at corey.king@ky.gov