

## RIVER DELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

230 Woodland Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661 (201) 599-7200



John Jasinski Assistant Principal

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Dear Students and Parents/Guardians:

Greetings 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Hawk Families! We are excited to announce that River Dell Middle School has launched a partnership with <u>The Social Institute</u> (TSI), a national leader in curriculum designed to equip students to navigate the complex intersection of well-being, social media, and technology.

At a time when students spend many hours a day on digital devices, and cyberbullying and reputation-damaging posts run rampant, TSI equips students to make positive, healthy, and high-character choices that **fuel their health**, **happiness**, **and future success**. Our school will be adopting TSI's comprehensive program, called **#WinAtSocial**, which promotes character, empathy, teamwork, and other important life skills. This program will be facilitated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade RD101 classes.

Whether or not your student uses social media or a device of their own, we hope that you will consider how these free resources outlined below could be useful to your family.

To be clear, information offered through this partnership does not instruct anyone how to parent. Instead, these <u>supplementary resources</u> provide insight into social media, technology, and student experiences, offering family discussion prompts and informative resources that you can incorporate into family conversations as much or as little as you like.

## **How Your Family Can Participate:**

1. Continue the conversation at home: As students experience #WinAtSocial each month, Family Huddle questions may be emailed to you or your student by the school as a supplement to a lesson. These are completely optional to run as a family!

- 2. Register your free account for the Parent Toolkit. Many families refer to this as the CliffsNotes of social media and technology! Go to the Toolkit, click Activate Account, and enter our school code: 2815B62D733C43.
  - Be sure to use the "toolkit" to educate yourself on the many different social media platforms your students may be using. You will find this under *Playbooks*. The *Wall of Wins* tab will share stories of social media used in positive ways. This wealth of knowledge will truly serve parents well when conversing with their students!
- **3.** Save the date and join us on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 for our Parent Presentation: "Strike a Balance: How to Help Your Child(ren) Balance Social Media and Technology During the School Year." Information was shared in a previous email but RDMS will absolutely reach out and remind families of this free webinar as October 11<sup>th</sup> approaches!

Click here for more information on how The Social Institute supports families.

We are excited to be able to offer this important and timely education to our community. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Best Regards,

Robert Urbanovich

Principal, River Dell Middle School

