Walla Walla Public Schools
Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

bark

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Keeping students safer on our school-provided devices and accounts is of paramount importance to Walla Walla Public Schools. In that regard, we would like to make you aware of a recent step our team has taken to monitor school-issued accounts. Bark for Schools (https://www.bark.us/schools) is a powerful but free new monitoring service we are utilizing to help us better protect students both at school and at home.

Providing students access to laptops and email accounts opens up an incredible world of learning opportunities — as well as potential dangers that could impact our students, our staff, and the families in our community. Bark helps us monitor all of the content our students are creating, sharing, and sending through school-issued accounts. This monitoring helps us to detect potentially dangerous situations that students may be facing both in and out of school, including:

- Cyberbullying
- Threats of violence
- Predatory advances
- Sexual content
- Suicidal ideation

Bark's technology is proven. In 2019, Bark for Schools detected millions of concerning situations onschool-issued accounts, including:

- 892,670 instances of children buying, selling, or discussing illicit drugs
- 251,367 students involved in cyberbullying
- 91,812 children expressing self-harm, cutting, and suicidal thoughts

If you would like more information, please email me at techdirector@wwps.org. Thank you for helping us to keep our students safer online and in real life.

Keith Ross
Director of Technology and Information Services/Walla Walla Public School