ST. JOHNS COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ROBERT A. HARDWICK, SHERIFF
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Dear St. Johns County Parents,

Welcome back to school! We are excited for the year ahead and have a few updates for this school year that we wanted to share with you.

First, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) has created a Youth Services Threat Assessment Team. The team consists of members from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the FBI, and the St. Johns County School District. The team will meet consistently throughout the year and review every SJSO Juvenile Threat Assessment that has been conducted to determine proper classification, possible criminal elements, if any assistance is needed for family, and determine if the School District's Threat Assessment coincides with SJSO.

Second, the creation of this team will include the addition of two Threat Assessment Deputies. They will be responsible for conducting investigations into credible threats that are made against St. Johns County Schools, students, and school staff. The Threat Assessment Deputies will also be responsible for follow-up investigations into runaway juveniles, general crime investigations regarding St. Johns County Schools, and other juvenile criminal investigations. This position will also serve as a liaison between the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Threat Assessment Team and the St. Johns County School District.

Our last major update for this school year is the implementation of body worn cameras on our Youth Resource Deputies. These cameras will only be utilized when a deputy is requested to provide law enforcement action for a violation of a crime as defined in Florida State Statutes.

I remain steadfast in my challenge to all parents to continue being an active participant in your child's life. Their future depends on it. I would also encourage you and your child to utilize the FortifyFL app to report suspicious information that is learned by our schools and students. These tips are relayed to law enforcement and school officials for immediate investigation. It is incredibly important for parents to remain vigilant and aware of their children's activities at school and elsewhere.

I also challenge both parents and students to get to know your respective school's Youth Resource Deputy. The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Youth Resource Deputies are there for each of you. If you hear or see something you think isn't right or you have a question about, reach out to them. It is vital that our students know that the deputy in a uniform is a friend and there to be a resource to them.

Finally, this is a community partnership. I'd like to thank you for your continued support of law enforcement in St. Johns County. It is truly our honor to be of service to you. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office if we can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Hardwick
Sheriff

ST JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF ROBERT A. HARDWICK

EIGHTEEN APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

LIVE.ME IS A LIVE-STREAMING VIDEO APP THAT USES GEOLOCATION TO SHARE VIDEOS SO USERS CAN FIND OUT A BROADCASTER'S EXACT LOCATION. USERS CAN EARN "COINS" AS A WAY TO "PAY" MINORS FOR PHOTOS.

CALCULATOR% IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL SECRET APPS USED TO HIDE PHOTOS, VIDEOS, FILES, AND BROWSER HISTORY.

HOLLA IS A SELF PROCLAIMED "ADDICTING" VIDEO CHAT APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO MEET PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD IN JUST SECONDS. REVIEWERS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH RACIAL SLURS, EXPLICIT CONTENT, AND MORE.

DISCORD IS AN APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO TALK TO FRIENDS AND STRANGERS IN REAL-TIME VIA VOICE, TEXT, OR VIDEO CHAT WHILE PLAYING VIDEO GAMES. REVIEWERS SAY THEY HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH RACIAL SLURS, EXPLICIT CONTENT, AND MORE.

ASK.FM IS KNOWN FOR CYBER BULLYING. THE APP ENCOURAGES USERS TO ALLOW ANONYMOUS PEOPLE TO ASK THEM QUESTIONS.

ROBLOX IS AN ONLINE GAMING PLATFORM WITH A CHAT FUNCTION. UNDERAGE USERS HAVE HAD ISSUES WITH SOLICITATION FROM SEXUAL PREDATORS.

WHATSAPP IS A POPULAR MESSAGING APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO SEND TEXTS, PHOTOS, VOICEMAIL, MAKE CALLS, AND VIDEO CHATS WORLDWIDE. WHATSAPP USES AN INTERNET CONNECTION ON SMARTPHONES AND COMPUTERS.

KIK ALLOWS ANYONE TO CONTACT AND DIRECT MESSAGE YOUR CHILD. KIDS CAN BYPASS TRADITIONAL TEXT MESSAGING FEATURES. KIK GIVES USERS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME.

WHISPER IS AN ANONYMOUS SOCIAL NETWORK THAT PROMOTES SHARING SECRETS WITH STRANGERS. IT ALSO REVEALS A USER'S LOCATION SO PEOPLE CAN MEET UP.

BUMBLE IS SIMILAR TO THE POPULAR DATING APP "TINDER" HOWEVER, IT REQUIRES WOMEN TO MAKE THE FIRST CONTACT. KIDS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO USE BUMBLE TO CREATE FAKE ACCOUNTS AND FALSIFY THEIR AGE.

BADOO IS A DATING AND SOCIAL NETWORKING APP WHERE USERS CAN CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS, AND VIDEOS AND CONNECT BASED ON LOCATION. WHILE THE APP IS INTENDED FOR ADULTS ONLY, TEENS ARE KNOWN TO CREATE PROFILES.

GRINDR IS A DATING APP GEARED TOWARDS LGBTQ+ PEOPLE. THE APP GIVES USERS OPTIONS TO CHAT, SHARE PHOTOS, AND MEET UP BASED ON A SMART PHONE'S GPS LOCATION.

SKOUT IS A LOCATION-BASED DATING APP AND WEBSITE. WHILE USERS UNDER 17 YEARS OLD ARE UNABLE TO SHARE PRIVATE PHOTOS, KIDS CAN EASILY CREATE AN ACCOUNT USING A DIFFERENT AGE.

SNAPCHAT IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR APPS IN RECENT YEARS. WHILE THE APP PROMISES USERS CAN TAKE A PHOTO/VIDEO AND IT WILL DISAPPEAR, NEW FEATURES INCLUDING "STORIES" ALLOWS USERS TO VIEW CONTENT FOR UP TO 24 HOURS. SNAPCHAT ALSO ALLOWS USERS TO SEE YOUR LOCATION.

HOT OR NOT ENCOURAGES USERS TO RATE YOUR PROFILE, CHECK OUT PEOPLE IN THEIR AREA, AND CHAT WITH STRANGERS. THE GOAL OF THIS APP IS TO HOOK UP.

OMEGLE IS AN ONLINE CHAT SITE WHERE REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED. USERS ARE ABLE TO CHAT ANONYMOUSLY VIA VIDEO, PRIVATE CHATS, OR GROUP CHATS. CHILD PORNOGRAPHY HAS BEEN AN ISSUE ON THIS SITE.

MEETME IS A DATING SOCIAL MEDIA APP THAT ALLOWS USERS TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE BASED ON GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY. AS THE APP'S NAME SUGGESTS, USERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MEET EACH OTHER IN PERSON.

TIKTOK IS A MOBILE DEVICE APP POPULAR WITH KIDS USED FOR CREATING AND SHARING SHORT VIDEOS. WITH VERY LIMITED PRIVACY CONTROLS, USERS ARE VERY VULNERABLE TO CYBER BULLYING AND EXPLICIT CONTENT.

FOLLOW SJSO ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

WWW.SJSO.ORG