



Babylon Union Free School District

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Linda J. Rozzi
Superintendent of Schools

February 28, 2019

Dear Parents,

Over the past several years, the array of technology available to individuals of all ages has grown tremendously. While these resources often come with great benefits, some have the potential to encourage inappropriate, harmful or dangerous behaviors in children and young adults.

Most recently, the district was alerted to an online global challenge called "The MoMo Challenge". From what I know, it spreads through various online/electronic channels such as *YouTube* and an app called *Whatsapp*. Some claim it is a viral hoax; nonetheless (if credible) we want to inform all parents so you can be proactive.

The online challenge targets young adults and young children. Children are encouraged to participate by texting a number via an app and then completing a series of bizarre and dangerous tasks texted back to them. These tasks vary and increase in severity the longer the game is played. Most horrifically, the final challenge includes a directive to take one's own life.

While no Babylon student has been found to be engaged in this challenge, it is gaining attention on a regional, national and even world-wide level. As partners in education, I encourage you to take an interest in your child's online interactions. As technology becomes more progressive, it is imperative that we keep up with these advances. Know what children are downloading and what sites they might be visiting while online under your direct supervision.

Please know that our district remains committed to providing students with information about the dangers of such behaviors and programs. Additionally, our internet filtering services do a wonderful job blocking access to such sites on all district devices.

I thank you for reading this letter. Although we tend to be overly cautious at times, we also strive to be proactive in educating our community of any potential harm in today's ever-changing world.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Linda J. Rozzi
Superintendent of Schools