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Hello Families-

We are continually working on student safety as it pertains to internet access. We have received a few emails from concerned parents and have been able to work with the district to get answers. In addition, we are looking at how we can improve supervision and safety for our students.

Below is information from the district technology team:

-Currently the Internet Filter that Denver Public Schools uses, iBoss, filters both our **dpsguest** and **dpsstudent** wireless networks at the same level for Internet access using the Chromebooks at Southmoor or any other connected student device. The Chromebooks do have a Guest profile that is enabled in case the student is unable to login with their district Google Apps account.

Once a student has logged in to the Chromebook with their DPS Google Apps account they are connected to the **dpsstudent** wireless access as the default wireless network. A student can change to the **dpsguest** wireless access once they are logged on however this **DOES NOT** allow them unfiltered access to the Internet and the device is still filtered using the district's Internet Filter.

All of the Chromebooks purchased by schools must be enrolled in the district's Chromebook management program. Currently Google does not have the feature to block specific wireless networks, such as **dpsguest** in our configuration settings.

The parent letter also brought up the use of the website AnimalJam and YouTube access. At the beginning of the school year Google made changes to YouTube that have effectively ended their YouTube for Education program that filtered YouTube for school districts. Since then, Denver Public Schools communicated with STRs and in the Teacher Weekly newsletter, that our ability to filter has been an ongoing problem. Many useful Education web sites leverage their video content through YouTube such as Khan Academy and blocking YouTube entirely would have an impact on valid Educational use. The Department of Technology has engaged both Google and our filter vendor, iBoss, to try to resolve this issue and we are currently testing YouTube in Restricted Mode that may provide the educational content on YouTube while blocking inappropriate videos.

As for the web site AnimalJam.com, DPS' Internet filter categorizes the site under Games and Education. The DPS Internet filter has been configured that when a Games web site is also in the Education category, that it is allowed. Thus since AnimalJam is also categorized as Education, the filter allows this web site to be accessed.

DoTS can work with Southmoor for a report that would give an overview for the entire school, however our Internet filter does not log the student's logins from Chromebooks in the logs, just the Chromebook IP address. An Internet user report may be created based upon the computer's network IP address. If the school can match a student to a specific device, that is as close as we can get. The filter logs go back about 40 days. DPS does retain offline logs for up to a year. If a search of offline logs is required, about ½ an hour of staff time is required per day searched to process the offline logs. The parent letter also requested an audit of the browsing history of the devices which would have to be captured from the individual student's Chromebook .

The parent letter also closes with a request for 5 things below are our recommended answers for each item.

1. For Southmoor we can turn off the Guest profile on the Chromebooks. What this will mean is that only a student with a DPS Google Apps account will be able to login to the Chromebook and if a student specifically doesn't know their username or forgets their password it will need to be reset by answering their security questions to

reset their password or working with the STR and the Hotline. **The "Reset Student Password" public session on the Chromebook is still available when the Guest profile is turned off.**

2. Chromebooks are able to access the **dpsstudent** wireless network as the primary and the **dpsguest** wireless network is available to visitors within Denver Public Schools buildings and requires registration to access the network. Although a student can choose to select the **dpsguest** wireless network on the Chromebook, **IT IS** filtered at the same level as the **dpsstudent** wireless network through our Internet Filter. The ability to block access the **dpsguest** wireless network with DPS managed chromebooks is not a feature that Google has implemented however DPS has made this feature request.
3. An access report can be generated on the web sites that are accessed by the Southmoor network and this can be delivered to the principal. Due to the privacy of all students we would need to get permission from the parents to pull a report on their student's access (DPS is subject to Colorado Open Records Act. A request may be subject to costs for retrieval of the data. An Internet Use report would constitute at least one staff hour to complete.)
4. Classroom Management and Digital Citizenship should be the responsibility of the school when implementing any device alongside classroom instruction. Southmoor students in grades 3-5 complete digital citizenship through CommonSense Media.
5. Based upon the changes we have suggested below we can work with Southmoor on a parent communication plan.
 1. To block both YouTube and AnimalJam.com we can create a custom Southmoor Internet filter group that would LOCK all computers on the **wired, dpsstudent** and **dpsguest** networks. This means computers in the Library or on Ethernet cables will no longer be able to activate a Staff Override for websites. They will only have access to the custom Internet filter group. The Staff **dpsair02** wireless network is configured for the Staff filter rule and would have the same rules as the Staff Override.
 2. DoTS will turn off the Guest profile on the Chromebooks so that students can only login with their DPS Google Apps account. We will also activate prohibiting incognito mode on the chrome browser on the Chromebook.
 3. Just a note on these changes, according to the STR, certain parts of Southmoor use YouTube extensively for curriculum. The Kindergarten in particular, plays a daily video off of YouTube. Blocking of YouTube on the **wired, dpsstudent** and **dpsguest** networks may interfere with classroom instruction and curriculum.

As a staff, we are looking at ways to monitor computer time. The CSC will be hosting a parent info night to discuss internet safety this semester. As a school community it is going to take all of us working together to ensure our students are safe.

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Principal