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Google and Representative Walberg visit

Charlotte Middle School

Google and State Representative Tim Walberg visited Charlotte Middle School students on Friday, May 12, to talk with them about being safe when using the internet. Google calls it the Online Safety Roadshow which is geared toward informing students about internet safety. Representative Walberg shared a personal story about why he believes internet safety is an important issue.

When talking to the middle schoolers, Google had 5 Internet Safety Tips:

1. Think before you share: Think before you post a picture comment or video. Can it negatively affect yourself or another?
 2. Protect your stuff: Make strong and secure passwords. Make a different password for every different login. A strong password should be a mix of at least 8 upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols.
3. Know and use your settings: When posting utilize your settings to choose who you share your post with.
4. Avoid scams: If someone offers you a completely FREE trip to the Bahamas, you should be suspicious. This is called phishing, if it seems fishy it probably is.
5. Be positive: Be positive on the web. This means instead of saying something mean, say something nice. If you see someone being mean or offensive online report it.

Students found the information eye opening. When talking to students about the assembly they responded with, "One thing I took away was the impact you can have on a person when sharing things whether you know them or not." Students also believed the assembly was useful for the student body. "We have had online safety assemblies before but I really thought it was useful to hear how far a photo can go and how fast it can spread."

Google's Online Safety Roadshow was a good reminder for the students that the internet is a privilege that requires responsibility. It reminds them of how to use the internet not only safely but with courtesy.

Written By: Hayden May (8th grade CMS student)