October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

GRM Networks® wants you to be cyber smart with these ABCs.

A   Avoid interacting with strangers online.

B   Beware of cybercriminals. They lure you in with enticing offers. Don't take their bait!

C   Create strong passwords. Don't use words, dates or phrases that are easily guessed.

D   Don't share passwords. This creates a security risk and can lead to identity theft.

E   Exercise caution when browsing online.

F   Fend off hackers with end-point protection such as anti-virus or anti-malware software.

G   Get your cybersecurity hat on! The Internet can be a great resource when used properly.

H   Hackers know no boundaries and are constantly looking for their next target. Be diligent.

I   Identity theft is real. You are never too old or too young to have your identity stolen.

J   Join online groups or websites cautiously. Have you vetted the site you are about to join?

K   Keep all personal information safe. Never share personal information with anyone.

L   Logout of the computer or accounts you have accessed when you are finished.

M   Multi-factor authentication helps you double-down on account security and keeps you safe.

N   Never open an attachment from a sender you do not know or trust.

O   Only open attachments you know are from a trusted source.

P   Pause before opening an email from someone you do not know. Ask an adult if it is okay.

Q   Question emails or websites that look suspicious.

R   Report any mean, hurtful or phishing emails to a teacher, school administrator or parent.

S   Seek parent or teacher approval before downloading software or images.

T   Type web addresses or URLs correctly. Misspellings can lead to visiting unsafe sites.

U   Understand that when a message or image is posted, uploaded or emailed, it is on the Internet *FOREVER.* Although the message or image might be funny to you, ask yourself, "Is this hurtful or harmful to someone?" If it is, stop.

V   Visit only websites you know are safe and approved by your parents or teachers, otherwise you might download a virus.

W   Webcams are instrumental and important tools for remote learning. Review webcam etiquette so sessions are safe, productive and respectful to others.

X   X factor: free downloads provide the hidden possibility of downloading malware.

Y   Yesterday is gone forever. However, on the Internet, and through screen shots, that image, post or email *will last FOREVER.*

Z   Zeroing in on cybersecurity allows you to have a fun and productive learning experience.

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