

Office of Assistant Superintendent

Chad Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent

Jennifer Carter, Administrative Assistant

801.737.7288



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Parent Notice/Warning “Momo Challenge”

Ogden School District has become aware of a recent social media challenge directed at children and young adults, called the “Momo Challenge.” The object of the challenge is to use video games and social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Minecraft to encourage children and young adults to commit dangerous and potentially violent acts towards others or even themselves. Momo is a ghoulish-looking avatar that has threatened and cyberbullied children and young adults across the world and in the United States. The challenge has been linked to suicides. The communications through the challenge begin with a chat that asks the receiver to perform small tasks and then escalates to more serious violent acts, even self-inflicted harm, requesting photographs for proof. If children and young adults refuse to perform the tasks or challenges, Momo threatens to leak personal information, leaves disturbing messages, makes threats, and sends violent images.

We strongly encourage parents and guardians to have conversations with their children, as we are currently engaged in conversations with our teachers, counselors, and administrators. Likewise, we ask that you remind your child about the use of the [SafeUT](#) website and mobile app which allows users to submit a tip and/or speak directly with a crisis counselor. Each school in our district has promoted this valuable resource and encourages students and parents, to download the app onto digital devices.

We encourage parents and guardians to remain highly engaged in monitoring their children’s use of social media, websites and video games for material that could be harmful to kids. If you have questions or would like some advice on how to speak with your children about the “Momo Challenge” or other cyberbullying, please feel free to ask your school’s office staff to connect you with the school guidance counselor.