

# ANDOVER CENTRAL

31-35 ELM ST., P.O. BOX G, ANDOVER, NY 14806



# SCHOOL DISTRICT

PHONE: 607-478-8491 • FAX: 607-478-8833

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

There is a fairly recent social media challenge that targets young children and teenagers called the "Momo Challenge", and recently our students have talked about the challenge, which prompts this letter as an advisory to you.

The Momo Challenge is a short video found embedded in platforms including You Tube, You Tube Kids, Facebook, and the app WhatsApp. It features a terrifying character asking viewers to perform tasks that may harm them or others, and to send photos as proof that they've performed the harmful task. They are given a website and/or phone number to call to show the proof. The Momo character threatens the young person with harm to them or their family if the task is not performed. Here are some tips from experts on how to protect your children on line:

- Tell children to not contact strangers
- Enable privacy setting on your child's device
- Monitor their internet use always
- Keep electronic use in shared spaces

For more information on how to keep your kids safe, visit:

<https://its.ny.gov/keeping-kids-safe>

These sites are blocked on the school network, but students would have access with their private devices through cellphone network service. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon E. Morris".

Jon E. Morris, Principal

Andover Central School