



Dear Kittson Central Families,

Keeping students safer on our school-provided devices and accounts is of paramount importance to us here at Kittson Central. In that regard, we would like to make you aware of a recent step our team has taken to monitor school-issued accounts. Bark for Schools (<https://www.bark.us/>) is a powerful but free new monitoring service we are utilizing to help us better protect students both at school and at home.

Providing students access to laptops and email accounts opens up an incredible world of learning opportunities — as well as potential dangers that could impact our students, our staff and the families in our community. Bark helps us monitor all of the content our students are creating, sharing, and sending through school-issued accounts. This helps us to detect potentially dangerous situations that students may be facing both in and out of school, including:

- Cyberbullying
- Threats of violence
- Predatory advances
- Sexual content
- Suicidal ideation

Bark's technology is proven. In 2018, Bark detected 1.2 million instances of cyberbullying, 140,000+ communications discussing self-harm or suicidal ideation, nearly 100 student conversations with sexual predators, and 51 potential acts of violence in schools.

If you would like more information, please contact us by calling the school. Thank you for helping us to keep our students safer online and in real life.

Sincerely,

Rodney Stark  
District Technology Director