Protecting Students On-Line

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GRAND TRAVERSE AREA
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Winter 2019

Teens rely on their parents and other adults in their lives for on-line safety through the following means:

• Monitoring (via technology and software or personal supervision)
• Teaching/modeling appropriate on-line behavior
• Communication between students and parents and between home and school

According to a Nielsen Company audience report, the average person in the United States spends approximately 10 hours and 39 minutes each day on-line. This average includes our daily use of smart phones, computers, video games, radios, tablets and TVs.

NOT JUST TEENS
Even our youngest children are at-risk from harm due to excessive screen time. In fact, people of every age must be mindful of the potential for harm from the increasing amount of screen time in our lives.

By growing daily in our awareness of the vital importance of encountering others, we will employ technology wisely, rather than letting ourselves be dominated by it...
– Pope Francis, 2015

Used properly, iPads and other electronic devices can be a highly useful educational tool. However, these same tools can also be a threat to our students' moral and intellectual well-being if not used properly.

This document provides an overview of the strategies we have in place to help protect our students from on-line threats. However, we also rely on the vigilance of parents who are a child's first and most important educators. Fortunately, new tools are being continually offered that help all of us increase our protection of kids who use electronics.

IPAD MONITORING/FILTERING AT SCHOOL
Student-issued iPads are subject to processes intended to prevent young people from accessing undesirable websites and/or from being distracted during class. These include:

• Filtering software
• Monitoring tools that allow teachers to see students' screens
• Periodic review of websites accessed by students
• Device restriction settings
• Elimination of the app store (optional in some grade levels)

Through these means, most inappropriate contact is effectively blocked and we are able to spot trends that may be cause for concern. However, some websites are intentionally deceitful about their content, and these may slip through the content filters. *There is no substitute for a parent's occasional, unannounced spot check of your student's browsing history or app usage.*
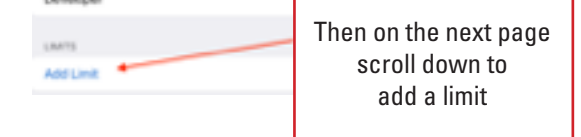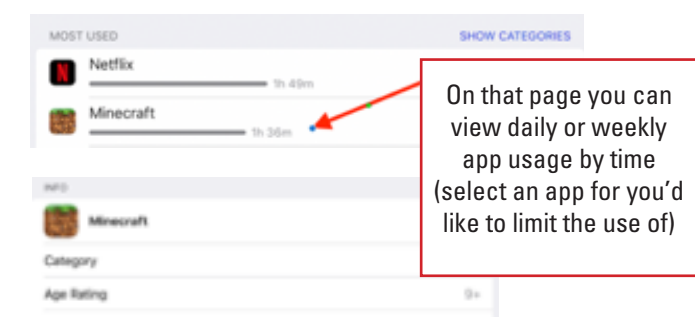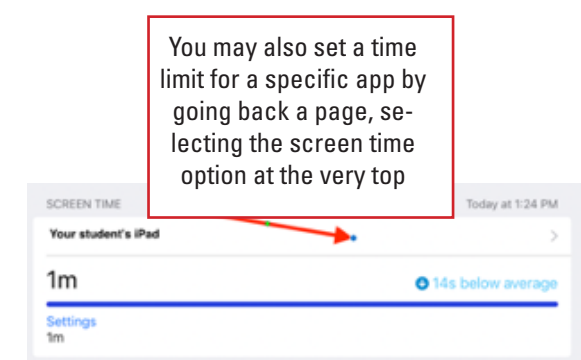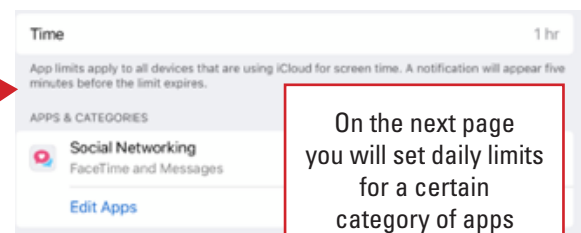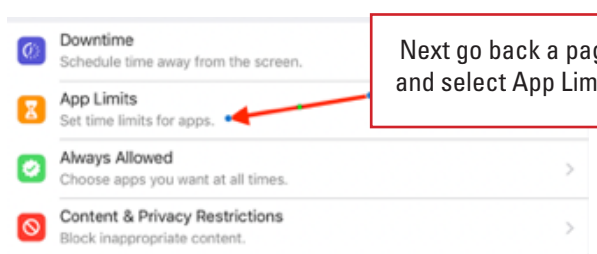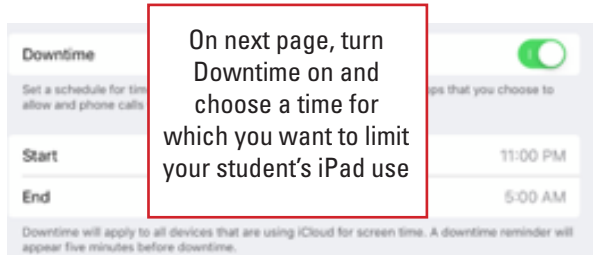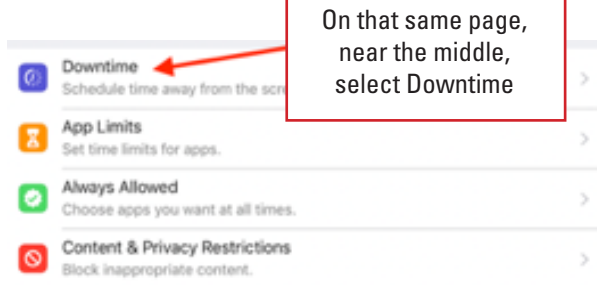
LIMITING SCREEN TIME
Emerging research points to potential damage to young minds when they spend too much time engaging with a screen instead of the "real world." Device manufacturers and software developers are offering tools to help us manage our time on-line more effectively, and help us avoid potentially addictive behaviors including social media use.

On the reverse, you will find instructions for accessing these tools on an iPad. Many smart phones will have similar instructions and we strongly encourage you to implement measures to ensure appropriate use of phones and other electronic devices your child may have.

Limiting Screen Time

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We recommend that parents make use of new built in "Screen Time" features. These features were included in iOS 12, so in order to use the features make sure that your student's iPad is updated to iOS 12 (it probably is).

Start by going to Settings and then selecting Screen Time

On the page to the right, select Use Screen Time Passcode

On that same page, near the middle, select Downtime

On next page, turn Downtime on and choose a time for which you want to limit your student's iPad use

Next go back a page and select App Limits

On the next page you will set daily limits for a certain category of apps

You may also set a time limit for a specific app by going back a page, selecting the screen time option at the very top

On that page you can view daily or weekly app usage by time (select an app for you'd like to limit the use of)

Then on the next page scroll down to add a limit

If you have concerns about your student's iPad use and aren't sure what to do, please contact our iPad coordinator, Mrs. Vanessa Tucker, for additional options.