

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

It seems that every time we parents turn around, there is another disturbing news story, another danger our children face. This time the danger is cell-phones.

We know our children love their cell phones. We watch in amazement as they text message friends as quickly as we speak to ours. Teenagers, to state the obvious, are very proficient at using their phones.

One of their favorite features is the phone's ability to take candid photographs. This feature is entertaining if used properly. However, some young people have been using their cell phone cameras to take topless or nude pictures of themselves and their friends and then transmitting the images to their peers. Forty students at a nearby high school in Pennsylvania may face charges for their roles in spreading via cell-phone a nude photo of a fellow student. As distasteful as this behavior is, it is also criminal. Teenagers who possess or who transmit such pictures of underage boys or girls may be liable for possession or distribution of child pornography. If prosecuted and convicted, they could be classified as pedophiles and placed on a community notification list as per Megan's Law. The consequences can be life-long. Therefore, please talk to your children about this disturbing issue.

In New Jersey, state and local law enforcement officers have notified schools about the potential legal consequences of cell phone misuse. We have reminded all students during our mid-year class assemblies about the dangers of cell-phone misuse. Please be reminded that state law requires that all cell-phones are to be turned off during the instructional day. If you would like further assistance on this issue, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Hughes
Principal