



Principal's Newsletter

Verner Elementary School

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Video games have become a part of a child's experience as they grow up. Some games are educational and provide an education in history or teach kids how to think critically or problem solve. Other games deal with content that is only for mature adults and portray activities that are illegal and immoral. As you begin to allow your child more freedom to play video games on various gaming devices it is important to know what your kids are playing, when they are playing them, with whom they are playing them and the content of the games that they are playing. Below are some tips to help parents become savvier on video gaming.

Video Gaming Tips for the 21st Century Parent

A recent study by the American Academy of Pediatrics shows that more than 90 percent of parents don't monitor ratings on the video games played by their kids. Many are unaware that a ratings system for video games exists, and children probably know more than their parents do about video gaming. The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) has designed the following ratings system for video games

EC—Early Childhood—has content that may be suitable for persons ages three and older. Titles in this category contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.

Upcoming Events

October 27

School Board Regular Voting Meeting 7pm High School Library

October 31

End of the First Nine Weeks

October 31

Halloween Parade 4pm—Verner Gym and around the block

Important Announcement

The end of the first nine weeks will be Friday October 31st and report cards will be sent home Wednesday November 5th

E—Everyone—has content that may be suitable for persons ages six and older. Titles in this category may contain minimal violence, some comic mischief and/or mild language.

T—Teen—has content that may be suitable for persons ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violent content, mild or strong language and/or suggestive themes.

M—Mature—has content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Titles in this category may contain mature sexual themes, more intense violence and or strong language.

AO—Adults Only—has content suitable only for adults. Titles in this category may include graphic depictions of sex and/or violence. Adults Only products are not intended for people under the age of 18.

In order to properly monitor your child's video gaming following these tips:

- Set limits on time playing video games.
- Make sure your child completes his or her chores and homework before playing video games.
- Be intimately involved in choosing the games your child plays.
- Suspend play if your child is having difficulty with self-control.
- Monitor attitudes and behaviors with your child when he or she plays video games with friends or siblings.
- Watch for signs of video game addiction.
- Don't allow kids to take video games to bed with them. They need their rest and a break from the constant connectivity.

Remember that you are the adult and have the ability to allow the privilege to play video games or not. Don't hesitate to restrict access to the gaming system or certain games because your child is not behaving appropriately with you or with the games they are playing. Set a good example for your child by providing alternative activities that they can do with you, siblings, or friends that don't involving video games.

