

Circle of Grace
Parent Letter
Social Media's Influence on Our Relationships
Grade 6 Lesson

Dear Parent,

Circle of Grace is a faith-based safety curriculum used by your arch/diocese. We presented the *Circle of Grace Lesson "Technology's Influences on Our Relationships"* to your child. The goal of the lesson was to help the children recognize that all forms of technology can influence our *Circle of Grace* and our relationships. It discusses how online and in person relationships are very different. We used the definitions below:

In-Person Relationships-

You have the ability to see facial and body reactions to conversations. You have the opportunity to see them in other settings (family, friends, school). You can see if you have done or said something to hurt/upset them giving you the opportunity to apologize. Moral development occurs with real in person relationships.

Online Connections-

It easy to be mean online because you can't see the reaction of the other person. You can act like things are fine by text and emojis, but you were really hurt. Pretending is really easy in online connections. Because of this, you may never really know the person.

The below online safety guidelines were discussed.

- g. Never give out personal information.
- h. Never send a picture or anything else to someone who requests it.
- i. Tell a trusted adult if someone sends you a picture or message that makes you uncomfortable or you know your parents would not approve.
- j. It is important that you are comfortable with a trusted adult seeing what you are writing/doing on the computer/tablet/gaming system or cellphone
- k. It is important that you are comfortable with a trusted adult seeing what you are looking at on the computer/tablet/gaming system or cell phone.
- l. If you are in a site where you feel like you should lie or if you wonder if what it says is true, you are not in a safe place. You must get a trusted adult to help you.

Attached to this letter is "Don't be DUPED "safety plan was reviewed with your child. Please keep it in a prominent place so they can refer to it.

Thank you for allowing us to be a partner in providing a safe environment for your child.