

Students get lessons about proper social media usage

Posted: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 11:40 am

On Sept. 2, Officer Dion Campbell came to Krueger Middle School to talk to students about how to properly use social media. He talked about cyberbullying, predators online, how to prevent fights and the consequences of fighting.

The first topic Officer Campbell talked about was cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is saying hateful things and making threats online. Officer Campbell talked about how some effects of cyberbullying are anxiety, depression and suicide. Teens say things online they would never say in person. Teens may compare themselves to others and can become depressed because they don't think they're as great as everyone else.

Cyberbullying can lead to suicide by making teens feel like no one cares. The reason some people cyberbully is because they feel bad about themselves, and they want others to feel bad. I learned we should be careful with what we say because we never know how our words affect others, and we don't know what others are going through.

In addition to cyberbullying, Officer Campbell talked about online predators. Online predators act like they're younger than they are and try to date a teenager. They have their profile as an attractive person so you will accept their friend request or follow them. In reality though, they may be much older than they claim to be.

Officer Campbell also spoke about how online predators, or even a teen's boyfriend or girlfriend, may ask for nude photos. Teens should never send them because that person might send it to others, and people might keep sharing it. If the photo is turned in to the police, a person could be registered as a sex offender for the rest of their life, in addition to having to live with guilt and embarrassment. You should always be careful about who you send friend requests to or who you follow.

The final topic Officer Campbell talked about was preventing fights and the consequences of fighting. He said if you choose not to fight then you are strong and not weak. The reason fighting makes a person weak is because you're letting that person get to you and you're letting them win the mental fight. At school, fighting and verbal confrontations have severe consequences. Unauthorized recording and filming in the building could also get you suspended. The focus should always be to stay out of drama and be a good student so you can get where you need to be in life.



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Korah DeLeon
In the Middle

Fighting, online bullying, and dangerous predators are some of the things Officer Campbell talked about at Krueger Middle school. His positive message to students was to make sure you're staying out of trouble, being nice to one another, and not using social media in inappropriate ways, so that you'll make it successfully through school.

Korah DeLeon is an eighth-grader at Krueger Middle School. In the Middle is a regular column produced by MCAS middle school students.