



Dear Parents/ Guardians:

The bishops of the United States, in *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* promulgated in 2003 and revised in 2018 mandate that all children enrolled in Catholic schools and religious education/formation programs receive Safe Environment training.

*Diocese/eparchies will maintain “safe environment” programs. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators, and community organizations to provide education and training for **children, youth**, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children.*

*Article 12*

The safe environment training of youth is a matter taken very seriously by the Diocese of Erie, especially in this unprecedented time in our history. The diocese, through your parish, is supplying families whose child/children are in remote/online programs with specific online videos so the training can be accomplished at home. The video(s) are outlined on the back of this letter. Please review the enclosed documents and watch the appropriate video with your child.

Also attached is a form to document that the safe environment training was completed. Parents maintain the right to refuse this training. **Please fill out, sign, and return the Completion of Training form to Saint Michael the Archangel Family Faith Formation team by March 14, 2021, as it is required for parish and diocesan records.**

We strongly urge you to talk to your child/youth about the importance of personal safety, especially online safety. The Diocese of Erie, our parishes and schools, take their responsibility to educate every child very seriously and are doing all that is possible to ensure that your child is educated in the reporting and prevention of abuse.

We appreciate your efforts in helping to create safe environments for your children -and for all of God’s children!

In Christ’s peace,

Elisa Cirell  
Family Faith Formation Coordinator

## **Remote/Online Learning 2020-2021**

### **Approved Safe Environment Training Videos for Remote/Online Learning:**

#### **Grades Kindergarten – Third**

Internet Safety for kids K-3 – 8 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89eCHtFs0XM>

Internet safety for kids is a topic getting much attention because children are being exposed to the Internet at a younger and younger age. IUP Communications Media professor Erick Lauber and his student production team at IUP's Digital Media Institute recently produced this video on Internet safety for kids for the Indiana Area School District. It is currently used as part of the in-school training for students in kindergarten through third grade.

#### **Grades 3 - 4 - 5 (-6)**

Safe Web Surfing Top Tips for Kids - 5 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrln8nyVBLU>

Would you ever walk into a giant arena full of strangers and make it rain postcards with your phone number and home address? No? Then what are you doing publishing those details online, where anyone in the WORLD can access them? It's easy to forget that the information we put on social media is visible not only to our actual social circles, but to our friends' friends and their friends' friends...and that creepy guy halfway across the world who you've never met. So, today we break down the importance of setting strict privacy settings, choosing strong passwords and other steps you can take to ensure you stay safe online. Good news! Internet safety is easier than you think.

#### **Grades (5) -6 -7 -8**

All kids count: Internet Safety Episode 15 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xI6AiyWA39w>

"All Kids Count" ([www.allkidscount.net](http://www.allkidscount.net)) was initially funded by the U.S. Department of Justice through two congressionally mandated grants, and the active support of America's leading groups in law enforcement and education. Its purpose is to educate children, as well as parents/guardians, on the critical issues of internet safety, targeted school violence, and other important safety topics. Internet Safety is one of three episodes of AKC Film Series #1, targeted for ages 9 and up. What distinguishes "All Kids Count" from traditional child-safety programs is that there are no authority figures instructing kids on the "rules" or how to behave. Rather, the critical information is conveyed in an "infotainment" style, where the viewer watches young people interact and experiences their adventures.

#### **Grades 9 -10 -11 -12**

Internet Safety Tips for Teens – Helpful and Funny 6 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnc4LaevRBw>

Teens today live a huge portion of their lives online. In fact, according to a study from Pew Research Center, 92 percent of teens report going online daily—including 24 percent who say they go online “almost constantly.” Why so much online activity? The accessibility of smartphones, of course. Fully 91 percent of teens go online from mobile devices at least occasionally. Among these “mobile teens,” 94 percent go online daily or more often. That’s a lot of time spent looking at a screen. Just like you want your teen to stay safe in school and at the mall, you need to be sure they’re being smart about how they handle themselves online.

