

SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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March 23, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We want to alert parents to a new internet site that engages students in inappropriate social activities such as bullying or harassment. This site allows the posting of anonymous comments and permits individuals to make disparaging remarks or threats, without regard for personal accountability.

We recently learned that formspring.me is such a site. It is accessed via a link that individuals can post on their social network page, such as Facebook. Some social networks, like Facebook, maintain a level of security so that an individual must grant access to another individual. This permission granting process is commonly known as a *friend request* and *friend accept*.

The site www.formspring.me does not require the approval of the social network page owner in order to post questions and answers. For example, a student who has included a formspring link in his/her Facebook page may find that inappropriate comments or questions are posted to their formspring window by others for whom the student has not granted his Facebook access.

This site is of course blocked from student use by the District's Internet filters when students use the schools' computers. However, this site may not be blocked on your home computer systems. Your children can block the site and we encourage you to discuss this with them.

Sincerely,

Harriet Copel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

HC/ml
doc: formspring doc/parent letters

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