

## **Ridge Circle Parents/Guardians:**

It has come to the school's attention that many of our students have TikTok accounts on their phones, tablets, or other devices. Ridge Circle is experiencing an increase in unsettling behaviors/emotions at the start of school and during school hours due to interactions on the TikTok app.



**The below information is for Informational purposes only.**

**What is Tik Tok?:** TikTok is a free social media app that lets the user watch, create, and share videos -- often to a soundtrack of the top hits in music -- right from a phone.

Click this link for: [Ultimate Parent Guide to TikTok](https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok)

URL: <https://www.common sense media.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

### **Frequent parent question about monitoring Tik Tok:**

**How can I monitor my kid's activity on TikTok?** *Other than Restricted Mode, there's no way to filter out content on **TikTok**, so **parents** are encouraged to share an account with kids under the age of 13. This **will** let you keep an eye on what your kid is viewing and posting.*

**We wanted to share some information about TikTok with our families, so that the adults have an understanding of what risks may be associated with using this app:**

- TikTok is currently the #1 concern for many state and federal police and cyber crime units. Recently, TikTok changed the account rules for people under the age of 13: they can \*view\* curated content (i.e. parent-approved), but not \*create\* videos if under 13. **This is only true if they admit that they are under 13 when they create their account.**
- The U.S. government has been investigating TikTok because of serious concerns the company is sharing users' data with the Chinese government. The TikTok database is also not very secure, making it easy for hackers to gain access to user data – including the videos posted there.
- If a child lies about their age when creating a TikTok account, pretending to be over 13 so they can create their own video and get “followers,” what's to stop an adult from also lying about their age and pretending to be a youngster in order to gain access to kids online?
- Some language used in these videos is highly inappropriate and some crosses over into cyberbullying and over into our classrooms and overall school learning community. .
- Please know that when your child has hundreds of followers, many of those people may not be who they seem to be.

We know that TikTok is a popular app, and for the most part many of our students use it in a very innocent way. We would highly encourage our families to check your student's devices frequently, and have serious conversations with them about all social media, including Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, and TikTok.

**Please sign the FAMILY PAW below to confirm that you have read this information and had a conversation with your child. Your child should return the signed family PAW back to their teacher by March 16, 2020.**

***We will be raffling movie tickets to 6 families on March 17, 2020 !!***

**Parents can also email or BLOOMZ reply to their child's teacher for acknowledgement.**

**Special Family PAW**

**Parent Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

**TIK TOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**Student Signature:**\_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for supporting Ridge Circle!!*** **Teacher:**\_\_\_\_\_



**Click on the links below for additional resources:**

[U-46 Parent Resources](https://www.u-46.org/Page/12924)

URL: <https://www.u-46.org/Page/12924>

[Village of Streamwood Police -Internet Safety Flyer](https://drive.google.com/open?id=17v7S83ch1P8Hiz3YaWNLKQ33WY9Tb5ml)

URL: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=17v7S83ch1P8Hiz3YaWNLKQ33WY9Tb5ml>

**We appreciate your support and partnership regarding this important matter.**

**Ridge Circle School  
Administration, Faculty, & Staff**