



FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
100 Reef Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824
School Safety Division
Lt. Eddie Weihe



Dear Parents and Teachers,

“The Momo Challenge” is the latest version of a very disturbing trend which uses platforms such as YouTube, Facebook, What’s App, etc., and challenges youth to engage in risky behaviors, up to and including harming themselves. We have not had any incidents linked to “Momo” in Fairfield, and currently there are no known incidents occurring in the U.S. See imagery below:



The imagery comes from a Japanese sculpture (above, right) which was created before the imagery was linked to the challenge. This type of challenge has been around for a while and has gone by many different names (Slender Man, Blue Whale, etc.).

Stories of children inflicting harm on themselves or others, allegedly as a result of these challenges, are often urban legends. Reports of deaths believed to be related to such challenges are often poorly sourced, or, there is a lack of information on other mental health factors that likely would have played a significant role in such incidents. That said, it is ever so important for parents/guardians, and school faculty, to closely monitor the content children are accessing on the internet and on all of the various social media platforms.

It is important to educate our children about good digital citizenship, but we also need checks and balances; we have to set parameters on the amount of time our children spend on devices and the content they access, we have to use parental controls and privacy settings on apps, and we have to be nosy to make sure we haven’t missed anything. As always, any suspicious content, activity, or concerning change in child behavior should be reported to appropriate resources immediately, such as Police and/or school-based counseling services.

Thank You,
Lt. Eddie Weihe
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