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Diocese of Laredo
MEMORANDUM

November 16, 2015

Dear Parent(s)

As a parent, the Diocese of Laredo recognizes that you are the first educators of your children, and understands the struggles you face in keeping your child safe. One of the greatest threats to children's safety is found online – pornography, sexting and other dangerous practices are found everywhere, from computers to mobile phones. The majority of children and teenagers spend over 70% of their time attached to a screen or electronic device. These numbers are staggering and it leaves young people at increased risk for behavioral issues as they get older. Early exposure to pornography, violent video games, and social media overload can shape attitude, values, sexual inhibitions, as well as violent tendencies.

We encourage you to visit the new **CMG Connect: Parents** website, which has resources and a free video *A Safe Haven Starts at Home*. The purpose of **CMG Connect: Parents** is to help educate parents, teachers and other adults in risk factors and unhealthy internet usage.

We hope that through this free platform, parents can learn dangerous behaviors to watch for, set realistic computer/internet usage time, and establish open communication with their children or other young people.

To utilize these valuable resources, please create a free account at: www.CMGparent.org, watch the 18 minute video, and take the short quiz.

Thank you for your service to the Church and commitment to keeping all children protected.

Diocese of Laredo
Catholic Schools Office