

Virus & Scam Warnings

Email

Don't open email that you don't know who they are from unless they are from someone within the district. Many viruses and worms are spread by email. There is currently an email worm going around saying that you got an e-card from someone. Delete this and don't open it. Also some email will come in saying "RE: Your account" or something similar and you've never send them an email inquiry in the first place. Delete the email and don't open or respond to them. People who do respond to these fake email are usually taken to a bogus site that looks and feels like it from their bank, paypal, etc. and get their account information stolen and often lose lots of money.

Viruses - Malware - Spyware

There are several viruses and spyware programs out there that try and trick you into installing them. A window will pop saying that you are infected with 30 viruses or 90 spyware programs or 500 Registry errors and asks if you want to fix them. If you click yes you then get infected. The most famous of these is Antivirus 2009 and AntiSpyware 2009. Some of these infections are very difficult to remove. If you keep getting these pop-ups please let me know.

The only Anti-Virus warnings you need to react to are from Sophos Anti-Virus, On-Access/Demand Scan, or Microsoft Security Essentials. **Very rarely** will you ever get prompted to remove a virus since anti-virus software prevents them from installing in the first place. We use Sophos Anti-Virus as the district standard. Everyone should have an icon on the system tray (bottom right-hand corner of the screen) with a shield on it. If you don't please let me know so that I can update your anti-virus software.

If there is ever a question as to what is on your screen or what you should click on please get in touch with me immediately. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Updates

I highly recommend that everyone stay current on their Microsoft Updates. There is usually a yellow shield looking icon on bottom right corner of the screen if an update is available. There are other updates that are ok to install such as: Java, Flash, Adobe (all), QuickTime, iTunes, InstallShield, and HP Update. If you are unsure about a program that's asking you to update please ask me.

Software

We also use Spybot - Search and Destroy, Windows Defender, and sometimes Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware for our Anti-Spyware/Malware software. Do not

uninstall these if you see them on your computer. They are there to help protect you.

Registry Cleaners - Performance Boosters - Internet Speed Boosters

I do not recommend that Registry Cleaners or Performance Boosters be installed on your computer. Based on fifteen years of computer experience these programs usually break more things than they fix. If your computer is running slowly there are several things that I can do to help speed things up.

Scams

There are several scams out there that are sweeping the Internet. The most popular one right now is the "Free Trial" scam. Weight loss products, colon cleanse, akai berry, and many others offer what seems to be a killer deal, just pay \$5 shipping and get the product for free. In the fine print it states that after the trial your credit card will be billed every month and the product will be automatically shipped to you every month. All you supposedly have to do is email or phone them to cancel. The problem is that they are not honest companies and will ignore your email and no one will answer the phone so the shipments continue. The only way to get out of this mess is to cancel your credit/debit card and get issued a new one with a new number. Be very cautious if a company only offers their product on a free trial basis and won't list the actual price of the product or won't let you purchase it outright.

There is also an email scam stating that one of your relatives died in a foreign country and they need to give you the money as you are the only relative they could find. In order to get the money they ask for your bank number and routing information so they can deposit the large sum into your account. What actually happens is they drain every penny out of your account.

Be very cautious with what information you give out online and through email. There are vultures waiting to steal and take advantage of you.

With everyone's cooperation we can greatly reduce downtime and protect the computer network from harm.