



# Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

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**Mark Secaur, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(631) 382-2006

October 6, 2026

Dear Smithtown School Community,

I am writing to you today to address a deeply concerning trend that continues to impact schools nationwide and within our own community: dangerous and destructive viral social media challenges, particularly on TikTok.

While social media offers platforms for creativity and connection, we are seeing an increase in trends that encourage students to participate in reckless, harmful, and illegal behavior. Many of these challenges urge young people to engage in inappropriate, and even violent, conduct. What may seem like an innocent prank to a student can result in lasting damage and serious long-term consequences for their future.

The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priority. We want to be clear that when this type of behavior takes place within a school environment, the school district will enforce strict accountability. Students who participate in these challenges, or who film and distribute videos of these acts, will be subject to school based consequences in accordance with the Code of Conduct, potential criminal charges, as well as potential financial liability for their parents.

We ask for your active partnership in addressing this issue. Please take the time to sit down with your child, review their social media accounts, and have an open conversation about the real-world impact of online behavior. Remind them that digital actions carry heavy consequences and that peer pressure is never an excuse for destruction or violence.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our schools safe, respectful, and focused on learning.

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.  
Superintendent