

January 15, 2024

Dear Parent(s) of Iron Mountain Middle School and High School Students:

Reports of the online enticement of minors have dramatically spiked in recent months—including reports of sextortion. “Sextortion”—a term that combines the words “sex” and “extortion”—occurs when an individual, often a child, is threatened or blackmailed, usually online, by a person demanding sexual content (photos/videos) or money from the child against his or her will. This may happen when a child or teen shares an image with someone they thought they knew or trusted, but the individual has gained the child’s trust through deceit, coercion, or deception (and sometimes, predators falsely claim that they have obtained photos that the child may have shared with someone else). The shame, fear, and confusion that victims experience when they are caught in this cycle often prevents them from asking for help or reporting the abuse.

Sextortion schemes occur in online environments where young people feel most comfortable—using common social media sites, gaming sites, or video chat applications that feel familiar and safe. On these platforms, online predators often use fake female accounts and target minor males between 14- and 17-years old but victims as young as 10 years old have been interviewed.

On **Friday, January 26, 2024**, our school will host a presentation on sextortion by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. FBI analyst Grace VanLaanen will be presenting to all students in grades 7-12 on the following topics:

- What is sextortion?
- Why do we care about it? The FBI and NCMEC are seeing huge increases in reports of sextortion and related suicides, particularly in teenage boys.
- What does it look like?
- What do you do if it happens to you?

Information, resources, and conversation guides for talking with your child are available at [fbi.gov/StopSextortion](https://www.fbi.gov/StopSextortion).



Welcome to

IRON MOUNTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE PLACE TO SUCCEED

If you do not want your student to attend this presentation, please detach and return the form below to the school and your student will be excused. He/She will be assigned an alternate location for the length of the presentation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amy Ryan, Principal
Brad Perry, Assistant Principal
Matt Opolka, IM School Resource Officer

I DO NOT WANT MY STUDENT

(print name) _____ TO

**ATTEND THE SEXTORTION PRESENTATION ON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024.**

PARENT'S

SIGNATURE _____

**Please return this signed form to the PT teacher only if
the student is opting out.**