

Dear NCS Parents,

Club Penguin. iTunes. MySpace. YouTube. Facebook. The media and technology that runs through the middle of our kids' lives is evolving at an over-whelming pace. And many of us, parents and teachers alike, are struggling with how to guide our kids through the positives and negatives of this 24/7 media world.

That is why we are starting a new initiative at Nobleboro Central School to help parents and teachers gain the understanding, skills, and confidence to help our children grow and thrive in today's new media culture. Over the course of the year, we will be surveying parents to understand the key challenges you are facing in helping your kids navigate the media landscape. We will provide you with practical parenting tips about how to talk to your kids and manage the media in their lives.

Our partner in this effort is Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help parents and educators stay informed and active in the media lives of children. Common Sense Media provides a wealth of practical guidance for parents on topics ranging from cyber-bullying to the media's impact on girls' body image. And they are now making all of this information available to schools in the form of a parent education program. I encourage you to visit their web site at [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org).

Raising media smart kids is one of the most daunting challenges that parents and schools face. By working together, we can raise a generation of kids who are smart, safe, and ethical creators and consumers of media.

Mrs. Taylor