

December 2025

# NNPS CYBERTIMES

THE LATEST UPDATES  
IN INFORMATION SECURITY



## How To Be Cyber-Smart This Holiday Season

As winter break nears, inboxes, online carts fill up and cyber-scammers' schemes ramp up. An increase in phishing, fake sales, and identity theft attempts make December a special kind of "exciting." With school wrapping up, holiday travel, and shopping, it's easy to let your guard down. Here are a few quick reminders to help you stay safe online and protect both district and personal data.

### Slow Down Before You Click

Criminals know people rush this time of year. Phishing emails may appear to be from shipping companies, charities, or stores offering great discounts. Before opening attachments or clicking links promising "one-day only" deals, pause and check. Hover over links to see their real destination. If unsure, visit the official website rather than use the email link.

**Tip: If something feels rushed or too good to be true, it probably is — especially during the holidays.**

### Watch for Holiday-Themed Scams

Scammers often hide their messages in things like digital greeting cards, Secret Santa invites, or "urgent" notes from administrators. If the tone, grammar, or timing seems off, trust your instincts. Report anything suspicious through the district's phishing-reporting process so our security team can help protect everyone.

**Remember: Reporting phishing protects not just you, but your colleagues, students, and district systems.**

### Lock It Down Before Break

Before heading out for the holidays:

- **Log off shared devices and secure classroom computers.**
- Store devices out of sight.
- Update passwords and make sure your MFA option are enabled and up-to-date. A few minutes of preparation now can prevent headaches in January, or worse, starting the new semester cleaning up a security issue that could have been avoided.

## Keep Your Cyber-Guard Up!

Even after you've powered down your devices and locked up for the break, good situational awareness doesn't stop at the classroom door.

The same habits that protect the district protect your household, too. Awareness, preparation, and a few extra seconds of thought are all it takes.

**Cyber threats don't take holidays, and neither should your vigilance.**





November 2025

# NNPS CYBERTIMES

## THE LATEST UPDATES IN INFORMATION SECURITY

### Stay Cyber-Smart at Home, Too

Cybersecurity doesn't clock out when school closes – it just changes locations. At home, your defenses are your own: your router, your passwords, your habits.

Ensure your home Wi-Fi is password-protected and up to date with the latest firmware. Avoid public Wi-Fi for shopping or banking. Use strong, unique passwords, or better yet, a password manager, and keep your devices updated.

If you're donating to charities or buying from small online shops, double-check URLs, payment methods, and reviews. Be cautious of "urgent" requests or anything asking for gift cards or crypto payments.

**Think of it this way:** even Santa checks his list and so should you. A minute of care now can protect your finances, your privacy, and your peace of mind through the new year.

#### Quick Takeaways

Cyber-smart habits aren't about paranoia – they're about preparation. Whether you're in the classroom, at home, or shopping from your couch, the same principles apply: **slow down, verify, separate work from personal life, and stay aware of what's real and what's not.** Small habits, repeated often, make a safer network and a stronger community. Cybersecurity isn't just technology, it's teamwork.

### Security Insights for Everyone:

CYBERSECURITY IS NOT JUST ABOUT  
PROTECTING YOUR DEVICES.



IT'S ABOUT PROTECTING YOURSELF



### A Note of Thanks

Yes, something like this note of gratitude was in last month's Newsletter but you all earned it! From all of us on Team InfoSec, thank you for the care and diligence you show every day.

From Administrators to Teachers, Custodians, Tech Support, Bus Drivers, our Web Team, Networking, SIS, Payroll, HR, Systems Groups, ITCs, Plant Services, CNS, the Warehouse crew, every member of our school board and school leadership (and everyone else I'm forgetting!) your awareness and effort keep our students and systems safe.

We appreciate your patience, your vigilance, and your partnership in protecting what matters most. Let's make 2026 our safest, smartest, and most secure year yet.

Wishing you a peaceful holiday season and a strong, secure start to the new year.

