

May 4, 2017

Dear Parents,

Below is a letter distributed to parents at some of the other schools in the metro-Atlanta area. Please take time to read about this current concern regarding social media. Inman Middle School has resources available through our grade level counselors if you need any assistance in working with your middle school student and social media issues.

In a continued effort to support you on important parenting issues, we have vital information to share. We were alerted to information about a sexual predator targeting local students on Instagram. We are aware that students at other schools have received unsolicited and inappropriate pictures via Instagram.

There are four known accounts at this time including:

- Westminster_Boi
- Atlanta Beauty Agency
- Instagrammer
- LongJohn319

It is likely that the same person has created these accounts and they are not believed to be associated with anyone at Inman Middle School. As of now, no Inman students have come forward to school staff to indicate that they accepted a "follow" request from one or more of the accounts noted above.

What we strongly encourage you to:

- Find out if your child has an Instagram account.
- Check for accepted follow requests for the accounts listed above.
- Report any predatory activity to local authorities before deleting evidence or blocking the sender.
- Use this opportunity to talk with your child about only accepting follow requests or direct message requests from people they know.

Adolescents often like to increase the number of people that follow them, which can motivate them to accept these requests from strangers. We are aware that other families in the Atlanta area have filed police reports, contacted Instagram with complaints, and have contacted The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Cyber Tip Line. Please do not hesitate to contact these groups as you see fit.

We continue to educate students on the importance of safe and responsible use of technology and social media. It has been an ongoing topic in our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade guidance classes to help students make appropriate decisions online.

As always, we are here to be a resource and to support your family in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Emily Boatright
Interim Principal