

***BARK* - FAQs for Families**

What is *BARK*?

- *BARK* is a digital tool used to track many of the potential threats students may face while living in a digital world. It is associated with all student accounts and devices in the CGESD. The monitoring system sends alerts to school administrators (and parents after signing up) when any suspicious or concerning activity is identified. More information can be found at the following links [BARK Info](#) or [BARK FAQs](#).

Why is this necessary?

- Students face unique challenges in our ever changing digital world. It is imperative that we work together while implementing the necessary steps to keep all student safety a top priority.

Is there an option to opt in/out of student participation?

- No. When completing the Acceptable Use Agreement, all parties agreed to the monitoring of student devices and their respective account activity.

When is *BARK* monitored by school staff?

- While alerts are sent in real time, it is impractical to respond to all notifications immediately. School staff will monitor *BARK* according to a site schedule which will be established for school days and school hours. Staff is not expected to monitor alerts outside of school hours (i.e. evenings, weekends, holidays, or breaks).

Who monitors school alerts and notifications?

- The school administrators will be the primary monitors with some sites also eliciting support from counselors and behavioral support specialists, when needed.

Can I receive alerts or notifications as a parent?

- Yes! In fact, parents are encouraged to take advantage of the email invitation sent from *BARK* to become an active partner in monitoring the online activity of their child(ren).

Is my child's information safe?

- Yes. *BARK* and the CGESD are committed to keeping your child's information safe. We only utilize appropriately vetted resources which are held to a high standard of confidentiality.

Is there a cost for *BARK*?

- *BARK* is free to schools and parents. However, families may choose to upgrade their monitoring service and support. More information can be found within the *BARK* website.

What is my role as a parent/guardian?

- It is important to be proactive in hopes that you can avoid being responsive. We suggest that you sign up for a *BARK* account and that you speak with your child about how to responsibly navigate their real and virtual world as a digital citizen. If you do receive a notification of a *BARK* alert (via email or through a school contact), you are encouraged to speak with your child(ren) about their choices and decide how your family might make adjustments (for example: time limits, supervised usage, improved monitoring, recognizing/avoiding dangers, etc.)