

March 2026

NNPS CYBERTIMES

THE LATEST UPDATES
IN INFORMATION SECURITY

March: Smart Browsing Over Good Luck

March brings St. Patrick's Day, a time often associated with luck and good fortune. While we all enjoy a little extra luck now and then, cybersecurity works best when it's based on awareness and good judgment, not on chance..

After January's focus on securing accounts and February's emphasis on verifying messages, March turns attention to where links lead us and how websites and online forms are used to collect information. Many cyber incidents occur not because someone clicked an email, but because they trusted the page that followed without taking a moment to look more closely.

Browsing habits matter, especially when daily routines are busy and attention is divided.

This Month's Cyber Focus: Safe Browsing & Fake Websites

Cybercriminals frequently create websites that look legitimate but are designed to:

- **Collect login credentials**
- **Capture personal or financial information**
- **Distribute malware through downloads or fake forms**

These websites are often reached through links in emails, text messages, social media posts, or online advertisements. Once someone arrives, the site may look familiar and professional, encouraging them to continue without hesitation. This is why paying attention to small details is so important.



Common Red Flags to Watch For

Be cautious if a website:

- Asks for information that feels unnecessary or unrelated
- Uses poor spelling, unusual phrasing, or overly generic language
- Has an address that is slightly different from the official site
- Displays pop-ups, countdown timers, or urgent warnings
- Pressures you to act quickly before you can verify

A website can appear polished yet remain unsafe. Trust is earned through verification, not appearance.



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Practical Habits That Help For Families

Families play an important role in reinforcing safe browsing habits at home. Students are exposed to websites, apps, and online content every day, often moving quickly between school-related platforms, entertainment, and social spaces. Learning how to recognize trustworthy websites and pause before sharing information helps reduce risk across all of these environments.

Parents and guardians can support safe browsing by talking with students about why not all websites are safe, even if they look professional or familiar. Many fake or misleading websites are designed to appear legitimate and rely on speed, curiosity, or excitement to encourage quick action. Encouraging students to slow down, ask questions, and seek guidance builds confidence and awareness.

Helpful reminders for families include:

- Not all links or pop-ups should be trusted, even when they appear in games or videos
- Personal information should never be entered without adult approval
- When something feels confusing or urgent online, it's okay to stop and ask for help

These conversations reinforce skills that support learning, safety, and responsible digital behavior both at home and at school.



Final Thoughts

Cybersecurity is not about luck; it's about consistent habits and informed decisions. January helped secure accounts, February reinforced verification and trust, and March strengthened safe browsing and awareness of online spaces.

As spring approaches, taking an extra moment to confirm where links lead and what information is being shared helps protect students, staff, and families across our school division. Thoughtful choices today help prevent problems tomorrow.

Thank you for choosing awareness over chance.

Need help or have questions? Our Technology team is always here to support you.

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Stay smart. Stay secure. Stay connected.

-Team InfoSec