

THE ORANGE COUNTY BETA REGISTER

FBI honors O.C. school for mastering Internet safety

By [SCOTT MARTINDALE](#)

2010-02-09 10:56:09



MISSION VIEJO – For understanding and mastering the threats posed by online predators, kids at Newhart Middle School have won a national Internet safety challenge co-sponsored by the FBI.

The Mission Viejo campus, part of the Capistrano Unified School District, took first place in the FBI's Safe Online Surfing Internet Challenge during the contest's November administration, beating out 53 other middle schools nationwide. Newhart, which also captured the championship trophy last April, was recognized in an awards ceremony last month.

"As two-time national FBI-SOS Internet Challenge winners, administration and faculty at Newhart Middle School have demonstrated their commitment to ensuring their students are prepared to safely use 21st century technology," contest administrator Daryl Hulce said in a statement.

The computer-based challenge teaches middle school kids about the precautions they should take while surfing the Internet. Kids begin by taking a short pre-quiz at school, then embark on an online scavenger hunt that takes about 60 to 90 minutes. A final post-quiz tests what they have learned.

The program is sponsored by the FBI and Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Fla.

In November, 679 Newhart kids – about 40 percent of the school's population – participated in the challenge under the guidance of technology teacher Kirk Bundy. The kids spanned all grade levels – sixth, seventh and eighth.

The contest is administered once a month during the school year, beginning in September. The school has the full month to get as many kids as possible to complete the challenge, and the school with the highest score receives the championship trophy.

About 50,000 middle school kids nationwide have participated in the program to date.

For more information on the program, go to www.fbi-sos.org.

Here are some sample questions:

1. Which of the following is personal information and should NOT be shared with people you meet online?

- a. Your name
- b. Your cell phone number

- c. Your picture
- d. All of the above

2. While using the Internet, children should never:

- a. Talk on the phone
- b. Give out personal information (name, home address, telephone number)
- c. Visit the FBI's Web site
- d. Instant message their friends

3. If a stranger writes to you and asks to meet you face-to-face, what do you do?

- a. Do not respond
- b. Set up a meeting time and place
- c. Tell your parent
- d. Both "a" and "c"

4. Which of the following is a "grooming technique" that an online predator might try in order to gain your trust?

- a. Sympathy
- b. Offers of gifts, money or modeling jobs
- c. Flattery
- d. All of the above

5. It's OK to send a picture of yourself to someone you chat with on the computer when:

- a. Anybody asks for one
- b. American Idol contacts you
- c. You get new photos developed
- d. Your parent gives you permission

Contact the writer: 949-454-7394 or smartindale@ocregister.com