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Sinister senior expelled

Kyle Mehlberger is expelled after caught tampering with school WIFI.

By: April Lawyer @ApLawy

What did you think when you

read that title? Did you immediately accept the idea that Kyle Mehlberger, a student in good standing, was expelled for malicious tampering with the school wifi? Whether or not you did, the fact of the matter is that the title is a complete and utter lie. Kyle Mehlberger was never expelled, and is still a proud member of the Marion Independent School District. But misleading titles and their articles are not a rarity online. They contribute to one of the biggest problems our society faces: misinformation.

Mr. Voss, who teaches US Government, AP Human Geography, and Psychology (among other classes), has had a lot of experience with misinformation in the news. Because his classes have a lot of group discussions regarding current world events, he has even heard several students share articles and information that have been flat out unfactual. "It's hard to police that sort of thing in the middle of a discussion," said Voss, "you know it's wrong, but without sources right in front of you, you can't immediately dispel it." He explained that it's especially difficult to police inaccurate statistics, because studies can

be published, but may not have been conducted in a way that would make them trustworthy. "It's hard to explain to someone that their information is not correct. It's essentially saying 'you are plain wrong'. Also," he continued, "It has gotten to the point where if you quote a reliable source of information disproving their false claims, they simply don't believe it. Because they will dispel those sources as unfactual." However, he has some tips for making sure the information you find is accurate.

First and foremost, use your common sense. Use what you already know, and compare it to what you are hearing. For instance, most people know Kyle Mehlberger to be a well-behaved student who never causes much trouble. Yes, he may be a wizz with the computer, but would he ever go so far as to tamper with the school's wifi? The premise sounds a bit far-fetched when one stops to consider it. Always remember to take a step back whenever you're watching the news or reading a suspicious article to think about how logical the claim being made is. Oftentimes, what we read online is presented as absolute, and can carry an aire of authority. Do not let this cloud your better judgement.



Kyle Mehlberger, senior, awaits his sentencing after being charged with "felony evil."

Secondly, check where the information is coming from. Reputable news sources list the authors of their articles. When in doubt, check to see if an author is named. If there is, do a bit of research on them, and see if they are a qualified journalist (someone with history in the field) or just a person that was able to type up a story.

Lastly, search out fact checkers. From websites like Snopes to the Washington Post, there are many places to check and see if what you have read is actually true. These fact checkers are dedicated to fighting against misinformation and extreme bias, and are a wonderful resource for the avid article reader.

Whether or not you encounter a lot of suspicious news online, it's good to be vigilant against misinformation.

What's going on around the school?



Morgan Hangartner, '21, sings her solo at the Marion Masquerade.



Mercadies Carpenter, '24, bakes in Ms. Comb's class.



The student section cheers at the boys' game.

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