



Performing  
Arts School

*Presented by*

bergenPAC's Performing Arts School &  
The FBI Newark Citizens Academy  
Alumni Association

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euyes  
wide  
open



Preventing  
Digital  
Exploitation

# ABOUT THE PROGRAM



"**Eyes Wide Open**" is a school awareness program presented by bergenPAC's Performing Arts School and the FBI Newark Citizens Academy Alumni Association. This educational drama tells the parallel stories of **Emma** and **Jax**, two teenagers facing the serious dangers of online predators, manipulation, and the pressure of living in a digital world. The program serves as a powerful tool to teach students how to navigate the risks of online communication and seek help when things go wrong.

Target School Audience: 5th- 9th Grade







# EMMA'S STORY

Emma is a high schooler who escapes the drama of cliques by thriving as a digital creator.

Passionate about photography, she explores anonymous stories while building a strong online presence that lets her break free from school life.





Emma's Bedroom

# THE THREAT.

“Oskar”

Emma connects online with a boy named **Oskar** who shares her interest in photography.

**Oskar** initially gains her trust but later manipulates and threatens her by altering photos she sent him to appear inappropriate.

**He demands \$1,000** or threatens to send the doctored images to everyone she knows.



# EMMA'S STORY

## ■ Threat 1

Oskar manipulates Emma by creating and threatening to distribute fake sexual photos.

## ■ Threat 2

Oskar blackmails Emma, demanding \$1,000 to prevent the release of the doctored images.

## ■ Threat 3

Emma feels isolated and unable to ask for help, fearing social and familial consequences.

## ■ Threat 4

The emotional distress of betrayal from someone she trusted online leaves Emma vulnerable.







# JAX'S STORY

Jax is a high school senior and star quarterback, driven by his passion for football and the weight of his family's expectations.

With recruiter day behind him, he's eager to prove himself not only for his own future but also to make his dad proud, carrying the legacy his father never had the chance to build.



# THE THREAT.

“Morgan”

Jax as a star quarterback, under pressure to secure a football scholarship connects with a supposed recruiter, **Morgan**, who gains his trust.

**Morgan** later sends a doctored image of Jax and **demands \$10,000**, threatening to ruin his reputation and future by spreading false images and reports if Jax does not comply.



Jax's Bedroom



# JAX'S STORY

## ■ Threat 1

- Jax is tricked by a fake recruiter who alters his image and threatens his football career.

## ■ Threat 2

- The extortionist demands \$10,000 or threatens to send the fake photos to colleges and ruin Jax's future.

## ■ Threat 3

- Jax experiences intense pressure, knowing his family's hopes are tied to his football success.

## ■ Threat 4

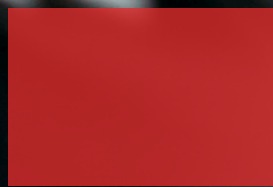
- The manipulation shatters his confidence, leaving him desperate and unsure of whom to trust.







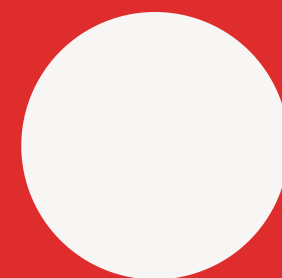
# MENTAL HEALTH & THE AFTER EFFECTS





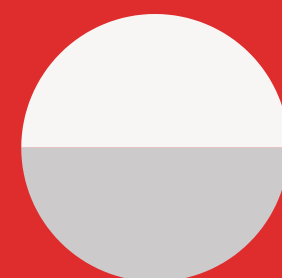
# Sextortion Statistics

In 2023 according to [NCMEC's CyberTipline](#) and [FBI.gov](#):



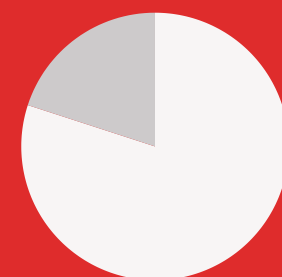
**7,200%**

increase in sextortion reports  
between 2021 and 2022



**Boys 13-17**

years old are the group most  
at-risk for financial sexual  
extortion



**12,600 victims**

and led to at least 20  
suicides







## **Anxiety and Fear:**

The constant threat of having their doctored images exposed creates intense anxiety. Both characters may live in fear of social humiliation, reputational damage, or disappointing loved ones.

## **Shame and Embarrassment**

Emma and Jax both face the possibility of public humiliation, which can trigger feelings of deep shame and embarrassment, making them reluctant to seek help or share their experiences.

## **Feelings of Isolation:**

Both Emma and Jax are manipulated into secrecy, which can make

## **Long-term Trauma:**

The emotional impact of being blackmailed and manipulated could have lasting mental health consequences, including post-traumatic stress, leading to struggles with future relationships, school, or career aspirations.

## **Loss of Trust**

Being deceived and manipulated by someone they initially trusted can lead to long-term difficulties in trusting others, damaging future relationships and creating a sense of betrayal.

## **Pressure and Hopelessness:**

The immense pressure, particularly on Jax who feels responsible for his family's pride and future, can result in hopelessness, making the situation seem insurmountable.

# The End.



In Eyes Wide Open, Emma's and Jax's stories are intentionally left unresolved, allowing the student audience to reflect on the scenarios they've witnessed and actively participate in discussions about possible outcomes.

This open-ended conclusion encourages critical thinking as students consider what could happen next and the real-world consequences of online manipulation and extortion. It naturally promotes engagement, inviting students to share how they believe the stories should end and what actions the characters could have taken to avoid or resolve the situations.

By imagining how Emma or Jax might feel, students foster empathy and self-reflection, building a deeper connection to the characters. This format also opens space for teachers to facilitate discussions on available options, such as reporting the issue or seeking help, while empowering students to think about the steps they can take if faced with similar situations. Overall, the unresolved ending helps students feel more confident in making decisions regarding online safety and appropriate actions to take in risky scenarios.







Please join us in raising awareness about the critical issues of sextortion, digital exploitation, and prevention

## Contact Us

For sponsorship information:

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[www.bergenpac.org](http://www.bergenpac.org)



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