



# Parkway Christian School

Challenging Minds ♦ Capturing Hearts ♦ Cultivating Gifts

---

## ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONAL ADVICE — WHICH IS STILL GOOD — A STRONG PASSWORD:

- **Has 12 Characters, Minimum:** You need to choose a password that's long enough. There's no minimum password length everyone agrees on, but you should generally go for passwords that are a minimum of 12 to 14 characters in length. A longer password would be even better.
- **Includes Numbers, Symbols, Capital Letters, and Lower-Case Letters:** Use a mix of different types of characters to make the password harder to crack.
- **Isn't a Dictionary Word or Combination of Dictionary Words:** Stay away from obvious dictionary words and combinations of dictionary words. Any word on its own is bad. Any combination of a few words, especially if they're obvious, is also bad. For example, "house" is a terrible password. "Red house" is also very bad.
- **Doesn't Rely on Obvious Substitutions:** Don't use common substitutions, either — for example, "H0use" isn't strong just because you've replaced an o with a 0. That's just obvious.

**Try to mix it up — for example, "BigHouse\$123" fits many of the requirements here. It's 12 characters and includes upper-case letters, lower-case letters, a symbol, and some numbers. But it's fairly obvious — it's a dictionary phrase where each word is capitalized properly. There's only a single symbol, all the numbers are at the end, and they're in an easy order to guess.**

## A TRICK FOR CREATING MEMORABLE PASSWORDS

With the tips above, it's pretty easy to come up with a password. Just bash your fingers against your keyboard and you can come up with a strong password like 3o(t&gSp&3hZ4#t9. That's a pretty good one — it's 16 characters, includes a mix of many different types of characters, and is hard to guess because it's a series of random characters.

The only problem here is memorizing this password. Assuming you don't have a photographic memory, you'd have to spend time drilling these characters into your brain. There are random password generators that can come up with this type of password for you — they're generally most useful as part of a password manager that will also remember them for you.

You'll need to think about how to come up with a memorable password. You don't want to use something obvious with dictionary characters, so consider using some sort of trick to memorize it.

**For example, maybe you can find it easy to remember a sentence like "The first house I ever lived in was 613 Fake Street. Rent was \$400 per month." You can then turn that into a password by using the first digits of each word, so your password would become Tfhleliw613FS.Rw\$4pm. This is a strong password at 21 digits. Sure, a true random password might include a few more numbers and symbols and upper-case letters scrambled around, but it's not bad at all. You just need to remember two simple sentences, so it's easy to remember.**