

Social Media Savvy Students

What Parents Need to Know

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CURRITUCK COUNTY SCHOOLS



SOCIAL MEDIA BY THE NUMBERS...

- Teens are spending nearly 1/3 of their day using media (approx. 9 hours).
- Tweens are spending nearly 6 hours daily accessing media.
- Mobile devices account for upwards of 46% of screen time for teens. Sixty-seven percent of teens have their own smartphone.
- Music and TV still dominate a teen's digital diet, but social media use is steadily climbing.

FACEBOOK, TWITTER, SNAPCHAT, OH MY...

Just when you think you've gotten a handle on the latest app your child is using two or three new icons pop up on his/her phone. The exponential growth in social media networks is dizzying. No matter the latest app, if you know what to look for you can help your tween/teen avoid some common pitfalls.



DRAMA



CYBERBULLYING



OVERSHARING

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BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR...

- **Age-Inappropriate Content** - Some apps feature user generated content that may not be age appropriate for your child. Though your child may not follow users who are creating this inappropriate content, he/she may still come across it in the app. Some examples: Tumblr, Vine, Ask.fm
- **Location Tracking & Sharing** - Allowing location identification means that wherever a child is accessing social media his/her location is tracked. Posts to social media may contain a current location. Check to make sure that location settings are turned off on the phone and in the app itself to ensure that current location cannot be tracked. Some examples: Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, Messenger
- **"Temporary" Pictures & Videos** - The word temporary is a fallacy. There is really nothing temporary about images or messages sent via apps. It's easy for someone else to copy and share what is sent. Children have a false sense of security in thinking that the image or post won't last and thus are sharing compromising pictures or texts. These images or posts may have long lasting effects to a young person's reputation and future plans. Some examples: Snap Chat, Burn Note, Line, Meerkat, Periscope, YouNow
- **Cyberbullying** - Social media apps attempt to monitor content, but unfortunately cyberbullying still happens. Some apps in fact seem to be designed to support such negative behavior. These apps allow for anonymous posting which provides users with anonymity and victims with little to no information about who is behind the attack. Some examples are: Burn Book, Ask.fm



DO YOU KNOW WHICH APP IS WHICH?

Snap Chat Facebook Tumblr Kik Periscope

Vine Instagram Pinterest Reddit Twitter

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

- Don't assume anything- **KNOW!** Know which apps your child is using by checking his/her phone and other electronic devices.
- Ask for your child's passwords so that you can monitor his/her use of social media and the internet.
- Be aware that children are savvy and hide apps on their phones and create alternate accounts on social media sites using a nickname.
- Talk to your child(ren) about appropriate use of social media. Remind them that whatever is put "out there" is forever "out there".
- Know the law regarding possession and distribution of child pornography and talk about it with your child(ren). Also know the law about cyberbullying and talk about it with your child(ren).

Sources

"Media Use by Tweens and Teens: Infographic | Common Sense Media." Common Sense Media: Ratings, Reviews, and Advice, www.commonsensemedia.org/the-common-sense-census-media-use-by-tweens-and-teens-infographic.

Elgersma, Christine. "What Parents Need to Know When Kids Are on Social Media." CNN, Cable News Network, 26 Jan. 2016, www.cnn.com/2016/01/25/health/social-media-red-flags-for-parents/index.html. Accessed 16 Dec. 2017.