

# Internet Safety

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# 15 Popular Social Networking Sites/Apps

From commonsensemedia.org

Key: **m** = messaging/chat

**v** = video

**p** = pictures

**s** = status updates/blogs

**a** = anonymous

- Twitter – **p s**
- Instagram – **v p s**
- Snapchat – **v p**
- Tumblr – **v p s**
- Google+ – **v p s**
- Vine – **v**
- Wanelo
- Kik Messenger – **m**
- Oovoo – **m v**
- Ask.fm – **a**
- Yik Yak – **s a**
- WhatsApp – **m v**
- Omegle – **m v a**
- Yo – **m**
- Whisper – **p s a**

# Presenting Yourself

- Students should **avoid**:
  - Typing in ALL CAPS!
  - Posting pictures of friends without permission from the friend's parents
  - Spreading rumors without checking sources. Sites such as snopes.com can help verify that information is credible.
- Students **should**:
  - Turn off cameras when not in use
  - Consider whether they would be embarrassed if friends and family saw their pictures or videos
  - Think carefully before sending a group message – does everyone need to see it?
  - Be careful what pictures they take, no matter what they are told about where it is going. Content can be forwarded with the click of a finger. Content in apps like Snapchat is **NOT** guaranteed to be temporary.

# Consequences of Social Media Posting

- Future employers can form a negative opinion of your child based on social media
- As lawmakers become more familiar with social media, many things are not only inadvisable, but now against the law
- Perceived anonymity does not protect your child from being accountable for their actions

# Privacy Settings

- Use to restrict what information your child shares with others/what information is visible to the public
- Talk to your child about what should be private information (social security numbers, bank account information, address and location information, passwords, etc.)
- Allow private messaging only to people your child knows in real life and of whom you approve
- Limit GPS settings that automatically post your child's location
- Password-protect phones

# Bullying

- Cyberbullying/Computer Harassment (a Class 1 misdemeanor) includes using a computer to...
  - Make threats online, over IM, or on social networking sites
  - Threaten any illegal or immoral act
  - Create harassing images
  - Publish jokes about another person
  - Entice a group to physically harm another person
  - Make any suggestion/proposal of an obscene nature

# Bullying

- Signs your child may be experiencing bullying:
  - Sudden disinterest in or nervousness about using their device(s)
  - Appears uneasy about going to school or outside
  - Appears angry, depressed, or frustrated after going online
  - Oversleeping or undersleeping
  - Becomes withdrawn
  - Increase or decrease in appetite

# Bullying

- Signs your child may be experiencing bullying (cont'd):
  - Makes passing statements about suicide
  - Loses interest in hobbies
  - Avoids discussions about what they are doing online
  - Frequently requests to go home sick
  - Would rather spend time with parents than peers
  - Becomes unusually secretive
  - Quickly switches screens or hides what they are doing when you walk by



# Bullying

- Signs your child may be experiencing bullying (cont'd):
  - Uses their device(s) late at night
  - Laughs while using their device(s) and won't show you what is funny
  - Avoids discussions about what they do online
  - Has multiple accounts or a fake account
  - Increased behavioral issues
  - Demonstrates increasing insensitivity or callousness toward other peers
  - Appears conceited about their technological capabilities

# Bullying

- If your child is being bullied....
  - Don't react/respond to the bully
  - Report the bully or post to the site/network
  - Block the bully
  - Protect the child's profile (change password, monitor for fake accounts, etc.)
- Advise your children not to impersonate someone else/create fake profiles

# Apps

- Smartphones and many social media services (e.g. Facebook) use apps
- Apps collect and share personal information
- Apps can let your children spend real money
- Don't put your credit card information in your child's accounts – if they want to buy apps, music, etc. use gift cards
- Check the description, content rating, and reviews before downloading
- Check what information the app collects

# Sexual Predators

- Research shows that teens who don't talk about sex with strangers online are less likely to come in contact with sexual predators
- Students should never respond to messages from strangers
- Students should never meet someone in person who they only know online
- It is against the law in VA to produce, store or share lewd or explicit pictures of minors – even by minors
- Sexting can be prosecuted as child pornography
- Students cannot control where something is forwarded once it leaves their fingers

# If Your Child Receives Something Inappropriate

- Do not forward
- The child should report to an adult they trust
- The adult should report to the police
- Do not delete the message
- If you report these messages/images, you will not be in trouble with the law

# General Safety

- Review your child's friend list
- Use filtering software (CIPA requires public schools and libraries to filter internet that is provided to minors. Ask your Internet Service Provider whether they offer a filtered option).
- Phones are generally not filtered.
- Monitor internet usage regardless of filters
- Initiate conversations
- Explain that people online may not be who they claim to be (e.g. 40-year old man posing as a 12-year old girl)

# Develop Rules

- Make your expectations clear
- Consider controlling your child's password
- Set an example by how you use technology

# Acronyms

- **CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act):**  
Requires schools and libraries to have an internet safety policy
- **COPPA (Children's Online Privacy Protection):**  
Protects children under 13 by requiring online services to have a clear privacy policy, requiring parental consent for collection of information, and requiring services to provide parents access to their children's information.