

Social Media Guide

2013-2014

Today cell phones and social media are an integral part of a teen's social life. Here is a brief guide to familiarize you with some of these new programs, as well as the pros and cons that go along with each.



Photo Credit: jhaymesivphotography

Messaging/Video Chat

Aside from text messaging, there are many apps which allow students to communicate via brief written, voice, photo or video messages.

Pros: No texting plan needed, quick way for teens to communicate

Cons: There is no guarantee of an honest identity. Similar to messaging, some apps allow students to receive uncensored texts, pictures and messages from anyone. Some programs may even disclose the user's location and arrange meetings. Many of these programs do not have included functionalities for youth to block or report inappropriate behavior or request help if needed. In addition, the other party may save these messages and use them to manipulate or sabotage the sender. These are only **a few of hundreds** of messaging options. Always research unfamiliar app icons on your teen's phone.



Snapchat



*WeChat



Kik



Voxer

meet
me

*meet me



*jingu



Best Friend
Finder



*AppMe



*Tinder

*Use extra caution. These apps may be inappropriate for minors or allow your child's location to be disclosed.

Photo/Video Sharing

These programs allow users to share important events in their lives with others. Viewers can comment on these pictures/videos as well as share the pictures and videos with their own friends.

Pros: Opportunity to share artistic, humorous or informational pictures/videos and receive social feedback in an easy, convenient way.

Cons: In some programs, anonymous users may view content and provide uncensored comments, inappropriate pictures/videos may be viewed, pictures/videos may be saved by others and modified or used by others to sabotage the user and some photos may provide others with the teen's location.



* Wink



Vine



Instagram



Tumblr

Just for Fun

Bored? Many of these apps are simply time fillers.

Pros: Humour, free entertainment

Cons: The permanent users profile page opens up the opportunity for malicious users to target, bully and humiliate youth. Unlike more developed social pages such as *facebook* and *twitter*, these new programs do not have built in options for youth to report inappropriate behavior or reach out for help if needed.



ask.fm



tbh



LiveProfile



Hot or Not



Facebook



Twitter

Cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication to upset, threaten or embarrass another person. It can include put-downs, insults, spreading rumours, sharing private information, photos or videos, or threatening to do harm. Unlike face-to-face bullying, electronic communication makes it easier to be aggressive because the bully does not have to see or experience the impact of the hurtful online interaction. If you or anyone you know is being cyber bullied, encourage them to save the messages and report the behavior to their parents and administrators. The RCMP may also become involved if needed. Cyber bullying is aggressive, hurtful and wrong. Take action to stop this behavior!

Adapted from PREVNet 2013