

# Social Media

Warning: There Are Many Side Effects



twitter



# What Students Need to Know

- ❖ Once something is posted online or sent via picture or text message, it's **IMPOSSIBLE to take back.** Even if you delete the information from a site, saved versions may already exist on other people's computers and circulate online.
- ❖ A Google search of your name can turn up any pictures or messages you've posted on the internet.



# Remember...

- ❖ The online world is NOT anonymous. You are accountable for each and every one of your posts, pictures, and videos.
- ❖ Parents, employers, college admissions officers, coaches, teachers, and the police may view your posts.
- ❖ Communicating by sending texts and/or photographs is dangerous. These texts can be saved or forwarded by the receiver to ANYONE, and you have no control over it.

# Before you press send or post...

- ❖ Don't assume anything you send or post is going to remain private.
- ❖ Your messages and images will get passed around, even if you think they won't:
  - ❖ 40% of teens and young adults say they have had a sexually suggestive message (originally meant to be private) shown to them
  - ❖ 20% say they have shared such a message with someone other than the person for whom it was originally meant.



Source: *TheNationalCampaign.Org*



# What Parents Need to Know

- ❖ 84% of teens have a social networking profile  
(*Facebook, MySpace, twitter, etc.*)
- ❖ Teens include the following information on their profiles:
  - ❖ Age (50%)
  - ❖ Photos of themselves (62%)
  - ❖ City they live in (41%)
  - ❖ School name/location (45%)
  - ❖ Videos of friends (16%)
  - ❖ Videos of themselves (14%)
  - ❖ Their cell phone number (14%)

*Sources: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2010; Journal of Adolescent Health 27, 2010; Consumer Reports, June 2011*

# Startling Statistics

- ❖ 16% of teens considered meeting someone they've only talked to online
- ❖ 8% have actually met someone they only knew online
- ❖ 14% of children in 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade reported that they had communicated with someone online about sexual things
- ❖ 9% of children in 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade have accepted an online invitation to meet someone in-person
- ❖ 13% of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students report that they used the Internet to talk to people they do not know.

# Posting & Sending Pictures

- ❖ Many teens report that they have electronically sent, or posted online, nude or semi-nude pictures or video of themselves.
- ❖ **How many teens** (*teens refers to ages 13-19*)?
  - ❖ 20% of teens overall say they have sent/posted nude or seminude pictures or video of themselves
  - ❖ 22% of teen girls say they have sent/posted nude or seminude pictures or video of themselves
  - ❖ 18% of teen boys say they have sent/posted nude or seminude pictures or video of themselves
  - ❖ 11% of young teen girls say they have sent/posted nude or seminude pictures or video of themselves (ages 13-16)



# What Can Parents DO?

- ❖ Use privacy settings to restrict who can access and post on your child's profile
- ❖ Have frank discussions with your child about the dangers of social networking.
- ❖ Monitor your child's use of technology
- ❖ Remind your child to protect their personal information

For more suggestions, navigate to [www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov) (the federal government's website to help you be safe, secure and responsible online)





# Know the Terminology

- ❖ **BLOG:** a website that can act as a personal online journal or sounding board
- ❖ **CHAT ROOM:** An online space where you can meet and exchange information through messages displayed on the screens of others who are in the “room.”
- ❖ **SEXTING:** Sending or forwarding sexually explicit photos, videos, or messages from a mobile phone.
- ❖ **TWITTER:** a social networking site where users can send brief text messages (140 words or less) online - both publicly and/or to a list of followers
- ❖ **FACEBOOK/MYSPACE:** a free website that allows users to create profiles, upload photos and videos, post and send messages
- ❖ **Webcam** – A video camera that can stream live video on the web; may be built into the computer or purchased separately
- ❖ More terms can be found at [www.onguardonline.gov](http://www.onguardonline.gov)