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Dear Parents & Guardians:

It is important for us as parents and educators to stay as informed as possible regarding the social media outlets teenagers use. In this spirit, below is a list of relatively new social apps, many of which are anonymous, do not require usernames and are potentially dangerous:

After school

An anonymous social network that's high school specific. Users identify their school but not themselves

Ask.fm (age 13 +)

Anonymous posting of answers to questions asked, no control over negative comments, bullying etc.

Burnbook (age 18+, 17 with parental permission)

You do not need to sign in, and you do not create a username. As a result, Burnbook gives kids the ability to pick a name and open up anonymous judgment from the community, leading to possible cyberbullying

Cuddlr

*Intended for adults- lets users connect with others in their vicinity (**including strangers**) who want a hug*

Facebook (13+)

Connect with friends, family and other people you know. Share photos and videos, send messages and get updates

Finsta (13 +)

A Finsta is a "fake" account, usually on Instagram, that is set to private, with only a handful of people who are allowed access to those materials.

Kik (age 17+)

Instant messaging app, free when using Wi-Fi, where anyone can contact a user and there is no approval process

Omegle (need parent permission under 18, not for users under 13)

Type a keyword and then you can text or use a webcam to "talk" to other users. Frequently cited for sexual content

Whisper (age not specific)

An anonymous confessional app that allows you to superimpose text over a photograph. Used to spread gossip

Vine (age 17+)

Users can record and post six-second videos that loop or they can watch other's videos

Snapchat (recommended for age 12+)

Allows users to capture videos and pictures that will erase after a few seconds

Instagram (age 13+)

Photo-sharing, video-sharing and social networking service that enables its users to take pictures and videos and share them on a variety of social networking platforms

Strangermeetup.com (age not specific)

Chat with strangers at random in private chat rooms.

Tinder (age 13 +)

Is a location-based social search mobile app that facilitates communication between mutually interested users, allowing matched users to chat.

Tumblr (age 13+)

Allows users to post text, images, videos, link, quotes and audio to their tumblelog, a short-form blog

Twitter (age 13 +)

Online news and social networking service where users post and interact with messages, "tweets" restricted to 140 characters. Registered users can post tweets, but those who are unregistered can only read them.

Yik Yak (not intended for anyone under 17)

Users see anonymous messages from others in the same 1 1/2 mile radius

With our collective involvement and supervision of technology usage, we can work to ensure our students / children are safe and exercise appropriate discretion while using social media.

Sincerely,

Tim Hogan
Principal