

Edge Teen Center Community Conversation

November 8, 2018

Student presentation on new kinds of social media:

Snapchat – posts in 24 hours, can post stories

Instagram – Facebook for teens – the cool Facebook, can ask questions

YouTube – lot of teens use, place to go for fun and to laugh, solve academic problems, funny skits, watch professional bloggers and YouTubers...can be a huge timesuck

Twitter – teens use for information and for news, don't use to express themselves, use to find out about school and community events; teens don't feel comfortable posting – can lead to negative responses

Netflix – used to watch shows

YouTube and Netflix used at home mostly

Others:

Group Me – texting

WhatsApp

Spotify

Text messaging open alongside all the above apps

General conversation:

With Instagram lot of teens make fake accounts

Snapchat has “my eyes only” password-protected place where you can store pictures

YouTube – just makes them happy, to get away from things for a while

When you take it away, it really upsets the child.

The self-esteem piece, when they see amazing lives online.

We (adults) are modeling some of these behaviors.

What are the effects of these uses of social media?

Lose social interaction

Become too introverted

Isolated

Taking time away from homework, rest, sleep, family time

What you post on social media equals popularity

If someone posts a picture and gets 800 likes, they think they're popular

And the opposite – feel not popular

They don't turn it off when they go home

The popularity competition never turns off

There are other ways to balance the social media, like parents

Sensitivity goes up. If someone doesn't like on your story or picture, kind of hurts you morally

People less sensitive. Behind the screen. Keyboard courage.

How can parents protect kids? Keep them from feeling like this.

Huge trust factor when you let your kids on social media.

While informing them of the dangers.

How many students get tracked (by parents)? (Many hands go up).

How many adults are checking up on your kids' use of social media? (Many hands again.)

How many parents have "liked" pictures when checking what's on kids' phones? (Lots of laughter).

I feel a lot better after talking to students. They're pretty good about evaluating real risks and what to do about it.

I was reassured that I was not the only psycho mom. My kids don't go to bed with their phones. Left them in the kitchen. Two students said they do the same things.

Heard a lot of teens say they appreciate boundaries.

What are you more worried about? What new things are you worried about?

I can't understand why a kid would do that (send picture while smoking a bong). Students told me it's about popularity.

Child pornography – distributing photos for a "juul" (vaping device) – easier to hide

Porn on internet – they can access anytime they want

The availability and normalizing of it

A lot of kids with a computer in their in pocket, they're desensitized, "Oh, just another shooting..."

People getting sexualized at younger age, like 13-year-olds doing belly dancing in front of webcams

Messed-up adults who want to watch

Classmates who are curious and watch

What are the rules that are placed on you, what are the effects of those rules, what's the reality – what are they doing to get around the rules?

Majority of students appreciate the rules.

Feel like it keeps me accountable. Hold myself to a higher standard. Not a lot of kids have the benefit of being accountable.

If I posted everything I wanted to, I think my account would be hilarious. But someone for a job or college might not think so.

If you think your parents are at your throat, they're really not. They want to help you.

I'll second that a lot. It's very important to trust your parents.

Being called a snitch is what keeps you from being open and trusting your parents.

Scared to show your parents, so sometimes go to your peer.

Too scared to ask your parents.

Some people have this vision in their parents' brains that they're perfect. Don't want to tell your parents because of that.

What are the rules vs. reality in class?

If you want to be on, you are.

All day long every class. That's my reality.

Doesn't have to be hidden.

But not universally true.

Some teachers are on it. But not a lot of others.

Some teachers know and trust you.

It's very teacher specific. Some don't allow it all. Some let you do it.

Tug of war being teachers trying to incorporate technology in class, vs. kids using it for other things.

Loss of productivity.

Using your calculator and a friend texts you, and you answer, and suddenly you're lost in the world of texting.

Teacher: I'm here to teach you. If you don't want to be taught, fine. Just don't want to affect other kids.

We should be able to know when kids go to school they're not playing on their phone.

Effect of 1-1 Chromebook. You shouldn't need a phone.

Chromebooks are locked down. You can't get social media on it. I tested it.

So many websites blocked. We're going to be in the real world. You need to let us learn.

Other insights:

Cheating can get rampant. It's very easy. But teachers tell you you're going to fail.

It's easy to cheat off somebody next to you.

Cheating in order to learn...

Sex trafficking.....effect of strangers getting to our children. I have younger children.

Cincinnati is a hub for that kind of activity.

If mom takes my phone away, all I am is angry. But if she has a talk with me, then I understand it better.

When parent says I'm not mad at you, I'm just disappointed. Relationship is more important.