

Livonia Public Schools

Social Media Guidelines for Students

In the Livonia Public Schools, our Shared Vision puts forth that we want a school district where we "respect, value, empower and trust one another" and where we want students to be "persons of character who are contributing members of society and life-long learners." To that end, the District has developed a series of social media guidelines for students, designed to promote "positive digital citizenship" and help students better navigate the ever-changing social media landscape. These guidelines are designed to empower our students, helping them leave a positive digital footprint and powerfully enable them to be prepared for "future education and career opportunities."

Be empowered. Share with us your ideas and talents. Amaze us, amaze the rest of the world.

Be respectful. Follow the school's code of conduct when writing online. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions; however, do it in a respectful way. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.

Be aware. Make smart choices and be cautious about what you post and always keep your safety and the safety of others in mind when posting. What you contribute leaves a digital footprint for all to see. Once something is online, it's out there and can sometimes be shared and spread in ways you never intended.

Be safe. Never give out personal information. Use good judgment. Regardless of your privacy settings, assume that all of the information you have shared is public information.

Be thoughtful. Not everything you think has to be posted to the world. Take the extra second to think if you really want to say this to the world, for all time. Is it something you'd be prepared to defend tomorrow, in the presence of the person you're saying it about?

Be kind. Life is too short for wasted anger. The written word has a permanence the spoken one may not. Do not let a moment of anger become a situation that lasts a lifetime.

Be reasonable. Tone and intent can be hard to understand sometimes in a written form. Take the extra moment to make sure that you understand what the other person meant, not just what they wrote.

Be authentic. Users should not take credit for things they didn't create themselves, or misrepresent themselves as an author or creator of something found online. Research conducted via the Internet should be appropriately cited, giving credit to the original author. It is a violation of copyright law to copy and paste other's thoughts. Additionally, pictures may also be protected under copyright laws. Verify you have permission to use the image or it is under Creative Commons attribution.

Be inquisitive. The landscape of social media is always changing. Stay ahead of the changing trends to make sure that these guidelines are a beginning, not an ending.

Be yourself. Genuinely represent yourself in public in a way that you will be proud of today, tomorrow, and every day down the road.

It matters.... Be a good digital citizen!