Social Media and Your Child

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Benefits of Social Media

Allows individuals to create and share information and reach a large audience

Gives young adults a place to express their voice in an alternative setting

Allows young people to access and take part in conversations on global issues

"IG", also known as Instagram

Icon →

What is it: a stream of images that are created and shared by users, one of the most popular apps with young people today

*Per Terms and Conditions, children must be **13 years old** to create an account

Users create a unique username that can include letters, numbers, and symbols
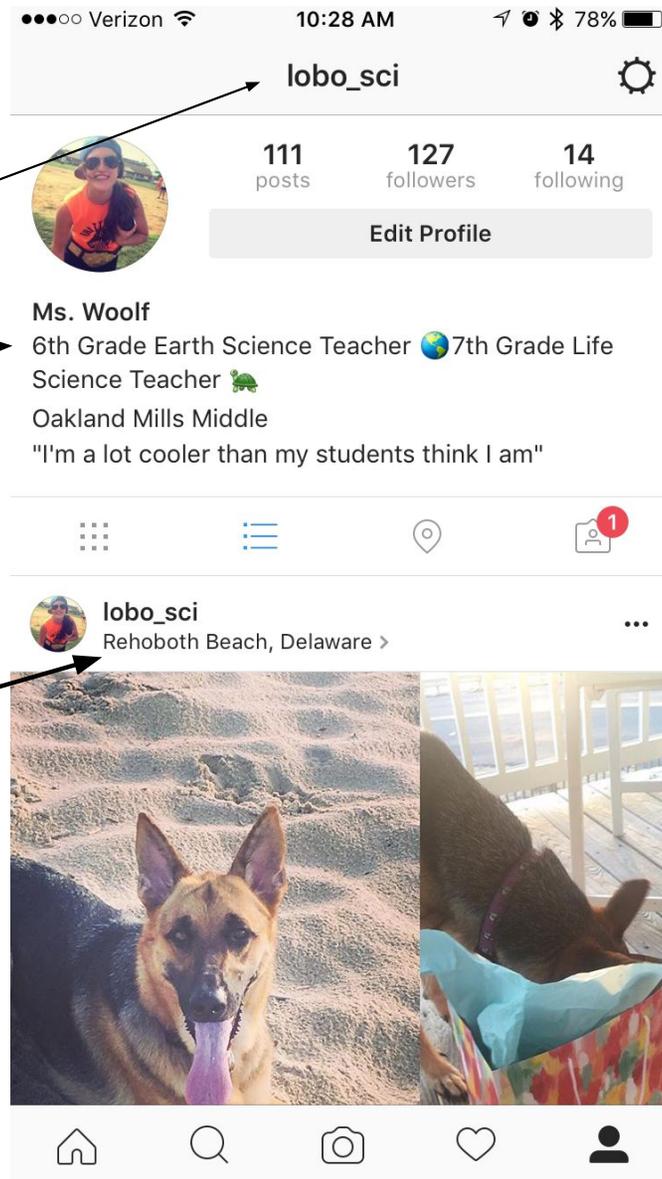
Usernames can be changed at any time, they are not locked in like an email address Example: lobo_sci

Users "follow" other users and then a photo stream is set up based on users that you are following. #**followforfollow** is used on pictures to generate followers of users

Anatomy of IG

Username and bio - personalized by user

Can see how many followers a user has and how many users they are following

Images - can see here that this photo is "geotagged" meaning that you can see where it was taken
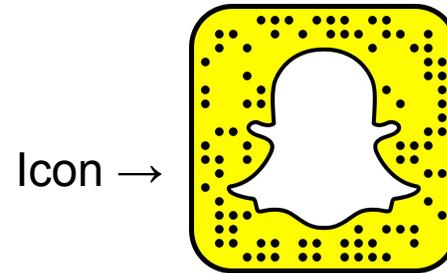
Safety on Instagram

Check child's privacy settings. If account is not set to "private", then any user in the world can follow your child, communicate with them, and view their pictures.

A private account means that the user gets requests to be followed and they can approve or deny the request

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‹   **Options**

ACCOUNT

Story Settings   ›

Edit Profile   ›

Change Password   ›

Posts You've Liked   ›

Switch to Business Profile   ›

Private Account   🔵

When your account is private, only people you approve can see your photos and videos on Instagram. Your existing followers won't be affected.

SETTINGS

Linked Accounts   ›

Language   ›

Push Notification Settings   ›

🏠   🔍   📷   ♡   👤

Snapchat

Icon →
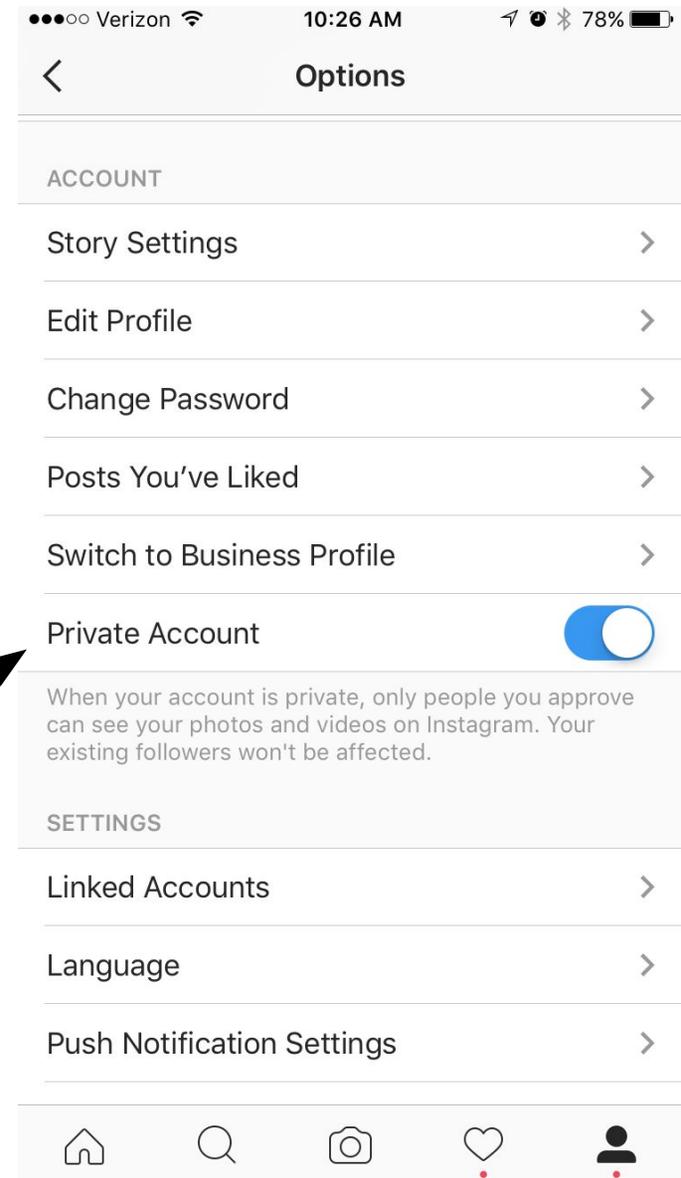
Users send images or videos to each other that can be viewed for up to 10 seconds before they disappear "forever"

Recipients can "screenshot" an image to save it onto their device

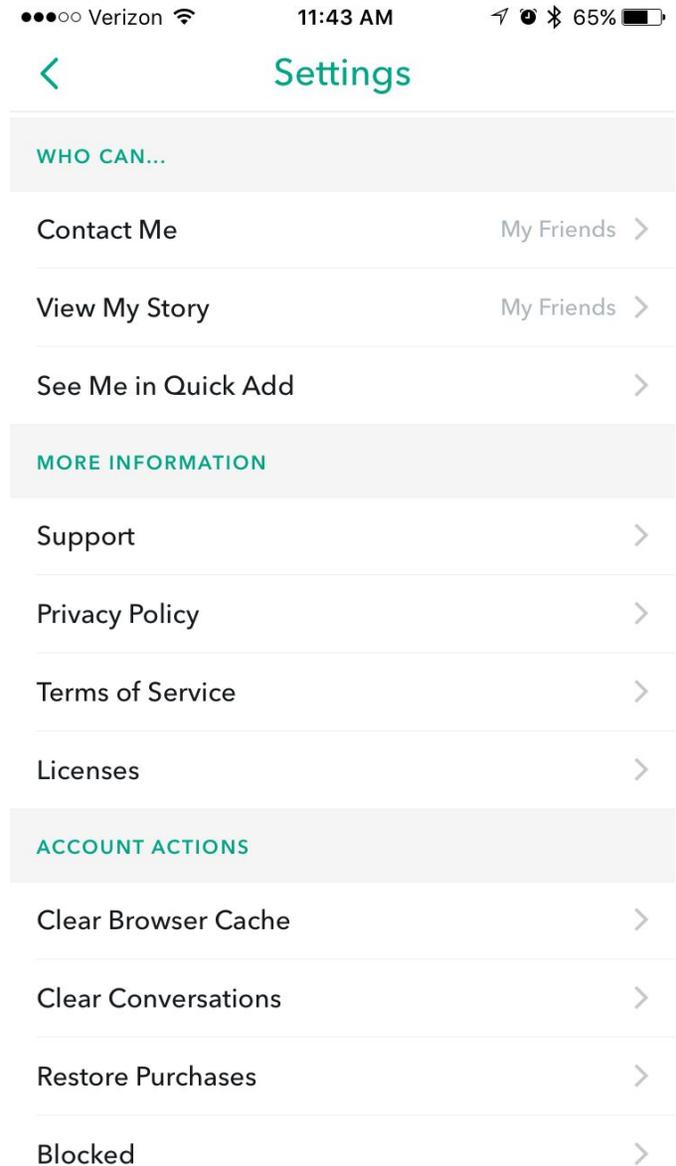*Per Terms and Conditions users must be **13 years old** to create an account

Users can also create a "Story". Adding pictures or videos to your story makes them visible to followers for 24 hours, and users can watch story as many times as they want. "Memories" are similar to stories are posted until the user removes them.

Instagram has a Story feature that works the same way as Snapchat Stories

Privacy on Snapchat

Users can decide whether anyone in the world can contact them or only users who they have added as "Friends" on Snapchat.

Friends can be found by using the app to scan your phone's contact list for other users

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< Settings

WHO CAN...

Contact Me   My Friends >

View My Story   My Friends >

See Me in Quick Add   >

MORE INFORMATION

Support   >

Privacy Policy   >

Terms of Service   >

Licenses   >

ACCOUNT ACTIONS

Clear Browser Cache   >

Clear Conversations   >

Restore Purchases   >

Blocked   >

Kik - it's like texting but can be anonymous

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Free on all internet-connected devices

Can be used to text, group chat and send pictures – the difference between Kik and texting is that users have a username that doesn't need to be associated with a cell phone number (children can have Kik without having a cell phone)

*Per Terms and Conditions, children must be **13 years old** to create an account

Kik messages will not show up on a phone bill, and only the user has access to message history. Kik has not cooperated with police investigations in the past in an effort to protect users' privacy.
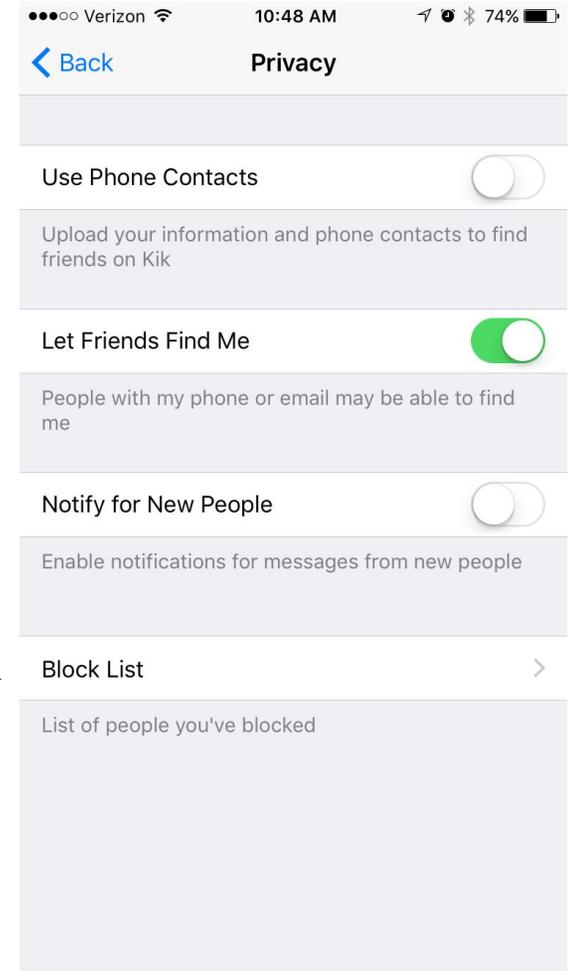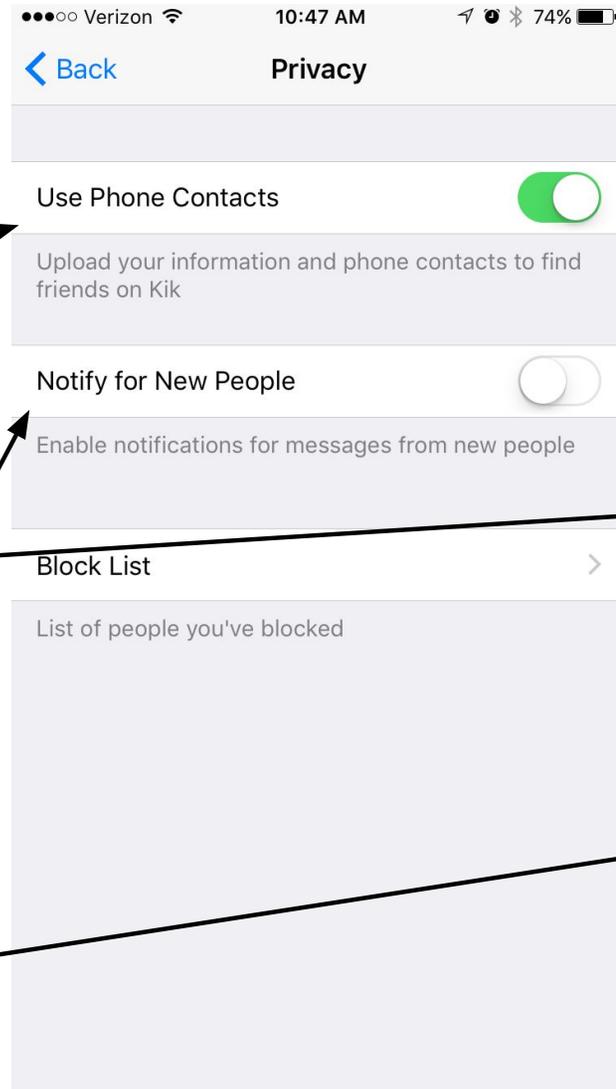
Privacy on Kik

"Use Phone Contacts" - scans user's phone to look for existing phone contacts using Kik

"Let Friends Find Me" - only shows up if "Use Phone Contacts" is **OFF.** Allows users who have your information to find you and add you

"Notify for New People" - if **ON** user is notified whenever any Kik user messages them

Users may block Kik users to end contact within the app

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❮ Back   **Privacy**

Use Phone Contacts   ⬤

Upload your information and phone contacts to find friends on Kik

Notify for New People   ◯

Enable notifications for messages from new people

Block List   ❯

List of people you've blocked

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❮ Back   **Privacy**

Use Phone Contacts   ◯

Upload your information and phone contacts to find friends on Kik

Let Friends Find Me   ⬤

People with my phone or email may be able to find me

Notify for New People   ◯

Enable notifications for messages from new people

Block List   ❯

List of people you've blocked

Youtube

Users view and can create and upload videos for a global audience

Uploaded videos can have 3 different privacy settings.
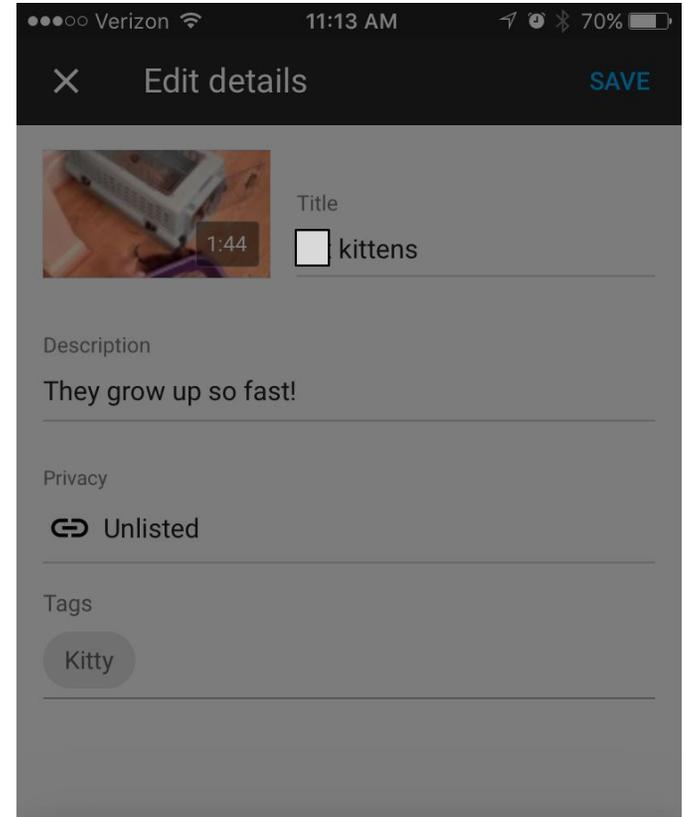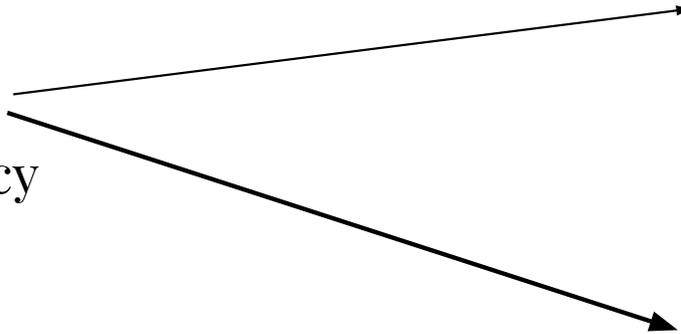
Icon →
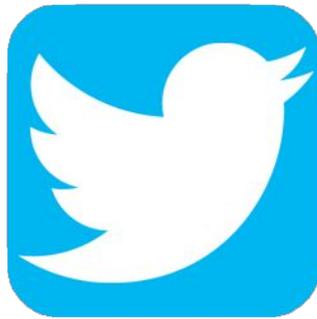
Twitter

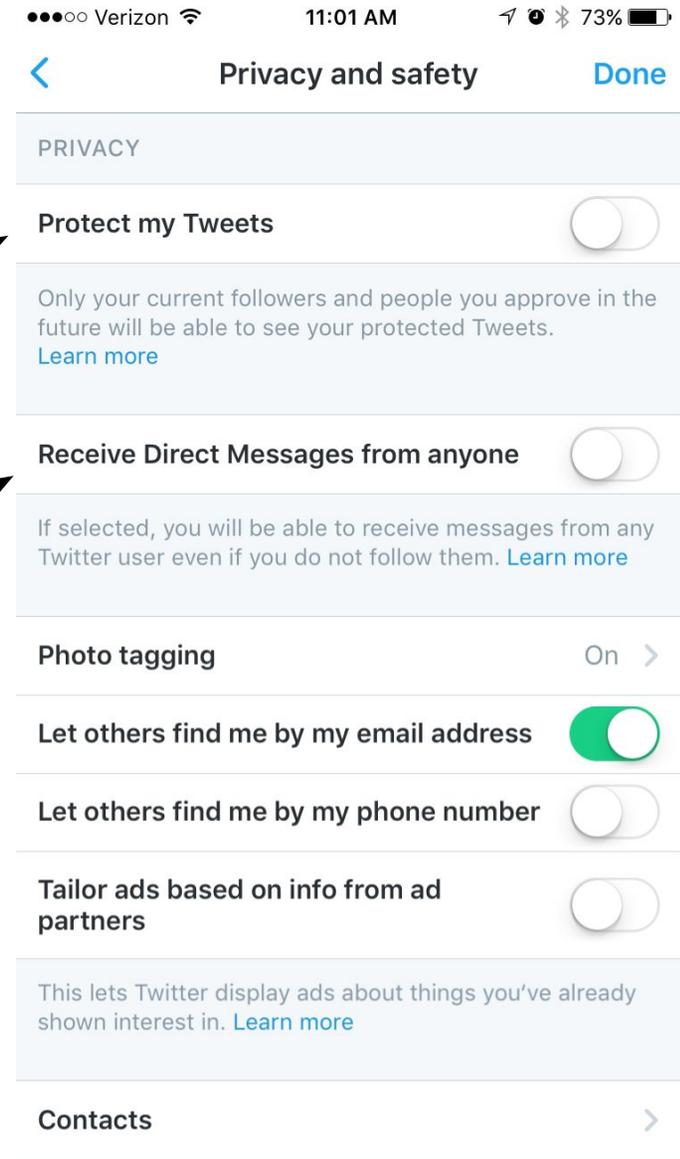Users can share short messages, or tweets, on a public platform

Similar to Instagram, tweets create a feed generated from the tweets of those you follow

Privacy on Twitter

"Protect my Tweets" - when **OFF,** any Twitter user can view your profile (mine is unprotected)

"Receive Direct Messages from anyone" - when **ON**, any user can send me a private message, similar to an email (mine is off - no one I don't follow can send me a private message)
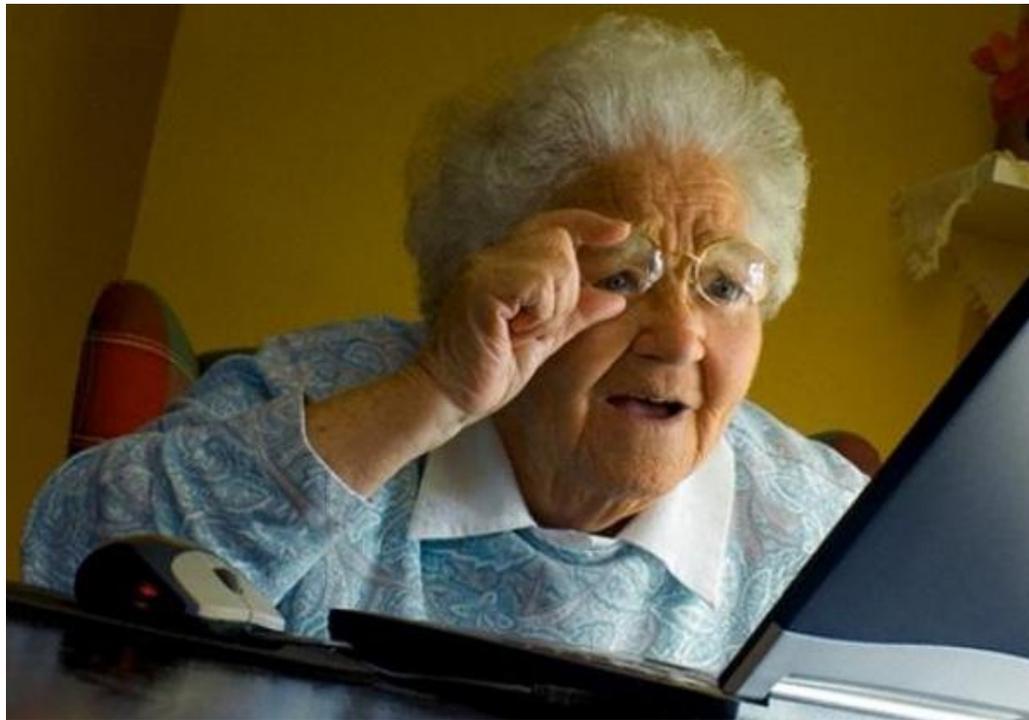
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< **Privacy and safety**   Done

PRIVACY

Protect my Tweets   ⬯

Only your current followers and people you approve in the future will be able to see your protected Tweets. Learn more

Receive Direct Messages from anyone   ⬯

If selected, you will be able to receive messages from any Twitter user even if you do not follow them. Learn more

Photo tagging   On >

Let others find me by my email address   ⬮

Let others find me by my phone number   ⬯

Tailor ads based on info from ad partners   ⬯

This lets Twitter display ads about things you've already shown interest in. Learn more

Contacts   >

Facebook

Icon →

Apparently only "old people" use Facebook

Online Safety Basics

1. Always know who your child is communicating with online.
2. Require children to show you their profiles and privacy settings
3. Remind children that once you put something on the internet you cannot control it anymore.
4. Encourage students to report any inappropriate behavior online to you or to a trusted adult at school.
5. Encourage students to only interact with people they know IRL (in real life) online

Questions?

Email me at
amy_woolf@hcpss.org