

# Social Media: The Sites and Apps That Students are Using

What Parents and Guardians  
NEED TO KNOW

Created by John W. Wynn Middle School's "Friends  
of Rachel" After school club

# Disclaimer

- Please note that the following descriptions of the social media sites are the opinions of the students from the Wynn Middle School Friends of Rachel Club from the 2014-2015 school year, along with additional information that is referenced from websites. It does not reflect the opinions of the Tewksbury Public Schools, or it's faculty or staff. The information is merely a guide so that you are able to make informative decisions about your child's internet usage.

# Who Compiled this Information?

- Thank you for taking the time to read the following information on social media sites and apps that students at the middle school level are currently using. The following information was put together by the students in the Friend's of Rachel Club, which is an after school program that works to encourage and promote a positive school environment and culture at Wynn Middle School. Students in this group completed the information on these sites and apps using their own knowledge from their own personal use, and with reference to the sites included.

# ask.fm



- **Name of Site:** ask.fm
- **Anonymous or not:** This site has an optional anonymous setting.
- **Description:** ask.fm is a site where people can ask you questions – however, you may or may not know who is asking you these questions. Your questions and responses are saved on your follower’s feed, and if your account is open you can also view questions and answers.
- **How it works:** Usually, your ask.fm account is connected to other social media accounts, or you can find accounts on their website – this makes it very easy for people to find your account. All accounts are open on ask.fm, so when someone finds your account anyone can ask questions (they do not need to be your friend).
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** Computers (internet), iPhones, smartphones, tablets, iPads
- **What people post/share:** Someone asks you a question and then you have the option to respond. Anyone can view your question and response (however, your name may not be shown depending on your settings).
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes, ask.fm is meant for friendly questions, but can be misused.
- **Appropriate uses:** Asking friends, family or the public questions that are serious, information seeking, or kind.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Asking questions to make fun of someone or asking for personal information.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** Anyone can view your account and you do not necessarily know who is viewing your account because it does not tell you who follows you, it only tells you the number of followers that you have. Some options for ask.fm to make it safer are to block people – you can block someone even if you do not know who they are. Another option would be to turn on the privacy setting, which is when you only allow questions if the person’s name is shown.
- **Where did we find this information:** <http://parentinfo.org/article/askfm-what-you-need-to-know>

# Vine



- **Name of Site:** Vine
- **Anonymous or not:** No, this site is not anonymous
- **Description:** Vine is a video sharing app, but it's not just any video sharing app. It's designed in a way for you to film short, separate instances so they can be linked together for a total of six seconds. Each short video is in a continuous loop, and is viewable directly in either Twitter's (another social media site) timeline, or it can be shared into a web page.
- **How it works:** You have to download the app to use it. Once you have downloaded it, you can scroll through a feed to view your friend's vines. You also have your own profile page that you can customize. Vine takes your information from Twitter – including your name, photo, biography and transfers it to your new Vine account when you sign up.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** iPhone, smartphone, computer
- **What people post/share:** Short videos
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes
- **Appropriate uses:** Watching appropriate videos
- **Inappropriate uses:** Posting/watching inappropriate videos
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** Only people who follow you can see your vines and account – there is a privacy setting
- **Where did we find this information:** <http://webtrends.about.com/od/Twitter-Web/a/What-Is-Vine.htm>

# YouTube



- **Name of Site:** YouTube
- **Anonymous or not:** You can be anonymous
- **Description:** A website which allows users with or without an account to view videos about a variety of things.
- **How it works:** You can make an account to upload, comment, view and like videos. You can also watch videos without having an account.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** YouTube can be accessed on the computer, smartphone, tablet, or device with internet connection.
- **What people post/share:** People can post and share almost everything in video form – there's anything from DIY's to funny sports videos. You can find videos on just about any topic.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** People can post inappropriate videos about negative things.
- **Appropriate uses:** Posting/watching appropriate videos
- **Inappropriate uses:** Looking at inappropriate videos, commenting mean things, posting mean things.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** You can turn on safety mode, videos you post can be made private. You can report inappropriate content, and you can also block other users.
- **Where did we find this information:** student known information, <https://www.youtube.com/yt.about/>, <https://support.google.com/youtube#topic=4355266>, <https://www.youtube.com>

# Tumblr



- **Name of Site:** Tumblr
- **Anonymous or not:** No – You can ask questions about other people's blogs and people can figure out who you are.
- **Description:** A social media website in which you can blog about different topics and themes. You can find different ideas, such as arts and crafts.
- **How it works:** People are able to post or share photos, quotes, links, music and videos.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** Computers, laptops, iPhones, iPads, and smartphones.
- **What people post/share:** Photos, quotes, links, music and videos.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes
- **Appropriate uses:** Share appropriate and informational photos, quotes, links, music and videos.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Commenting rude things on people's blogs or searching inappropriate things and posts.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:**
- **Where did we find this information:**  
<https://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20110811200907AAvub6k>

# Google Plus



- **Name of Site:** Google Plus
- **Anonymous or not:** You can use an anonymous profile on Google Plus, but by using your email it's not entirely anonymous.
- **Description:** Google Plus is a social networking site created by Google. You can create group chats and only people who follow you can see your pictures.
- **How it works:** Google Plus is a site, where Google email owners can communicate and form a profile. It's a way to send things documents and pictures to your friends on Google.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** It can be used on most devices such as computers, iPhones, and smartphones.
- **What people post/share:** People post and share pictures of themselves, friends, and what they are doing.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes, Google Plus can be used inappropriately.
- **Appropriate uses:** Appropriate uses include sending pictures to your friends of you doing something like holding a turtle or ziplining. You can also communicate with friends you don't see outside of school. You could also post a document or use video chats.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Inappropriate uses include disclosing your location, sending inappropriate pictures, and using profanity.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** Only people who follow you can view your pictures and chat with you. There is some privacy and only you can access your account or other people who know your email and password.
- **Where did we find this information:**



# Twitter



- **Name of Site:** Twitter
- **Anonymous or not:** You have the ability to make your account private so that only people you let follow you can see your pictures. However, if you don't make your account private anyone with a Twitter account in the world can look at it, comment and like your posts.
- **Description:** Twitter is an online social networking site that allows users to send messages and pictures to followers.
- **How it works:** You can type messages to a friend, or all of your followers and give updates about your day. You can also view newsfeeds to learn about celebrities, or anyone that your are following.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** You can use Twitter on the computer, or any handheld device.
- **What people post/share:** People can post updates on their life such as what they're doing, where they are, who they are with, share pictures or really any information that they choose.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** You can use Twitter for negative purposes, such as commenting offensive material, or posting mean things about other people.
- **Appropriate uses:** Twitter can be used to post positive, kind things. Some news sites or schools use Twitter along with places of work to share information with their followers.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Inappropriate uses include stating your location, or writing negative or mean comments on your own account or when commenting on other accounts.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** If you have a private account only the people you allow to follow you can view your account, however if you don't then anyone on Twitter can see your account.
- **Where did we find this information:** Student used Wikipedia for this information, along with their own knowledge of the site.

# FaceTime



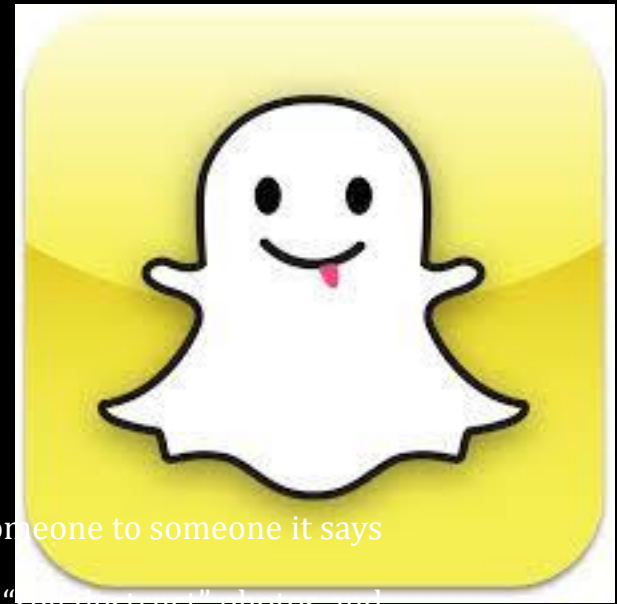
- **Name of Site:** FaceTime
- **Anonymous or not:** You are only able to see who the person is if they are in your contacts and you call their phone number or they call yours.
- **Description:** FaceTime is how you can video call someone from your iPhone, iPad, iPod, or other Apple device.
- **How it works:** You choose a contact with an Apple device and then make a FaceTime phone call. When you choose the contact, it sends them a request which says that you would like to FaceTime – the person receiving the request can either press yes or no to respond or make the call end.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** This can be used on any Apple device.
- **What people post/share:** People will share what they are doing or if they are bored they will just call to talk to someone.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** You can use this to talk badly about someone to a friend or another person, or you could show the person you are talking to an embarrassing picture. You can also use it to call random numbers.
- **Appropriate uses:** An appropriate use would be to call your friends to work on homework or something school related. You can also use it to talk to someone who is on vacation or has moved somewhere. You can also use it just to talk to your friends.
- **Inappropriate uses:** An inappropriate use is to use it to make fun of someone or to prank call someone.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** The people who are FaceTiming can see who you are – and that is it unless they are with a group of people.
- **Where did we find this information:** The student knew this information because they use this app.

# Instagram



- **Name of Site:** Instagram
- **Anonymous or not:** You can make yourself anonymous on Instagram.
- **Description:** Instagram is a way to post pictures and let your followers see what you're up to. You can also DM (direct message) people if you want to talk privately.
- **How it works:** You can edit a picture to post or just take a picture and then post it. You can also make your account private so that only the people you want to can see it. People can comment on your pictures.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** Instagram can be used on almost any device that has access to the internet.
- **What people post/share:** People can post practically anything – some people post pictures with their friends or what they eat. You need to be careful because some people don't always post the most appropriate stuff.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** You can negatively use Instagram by posting a picture about someone or insulting them in a comment.
- **Appropriate uses:** To appropriately use Instagram, post only stuff that is okay and appropriate for anyone to see.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Inappropriate uses on Instagram could be posting mean pictures about others or posting images of people with too much exposure. Also, commenting in a negative way on someone's picture.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** On Instagram, you can keep your account public for anyone in the world to see, or you can keep your account private for only the followers that you accept to see.
- **Where did we find this information:** The student knows this information because they use the app.

# Snapchat



- **Name of Site:** Snapchat
- **Anonymous or not:** No, Snapchat is not anonymous because when you send someone to someone it says your name or username.
- **Description:** Snapchat is a mobile device that allows users to send and receive “self-destruct” photos and videos. Photos sent through Snapchat are called Snaps.
- **How it works:** First you take a picture, then you can decide if you want to send it to certain people or your “story” – which is everyone that you have as a friend. You can also decide how long you want people to be able to view the picture or video – from 1-10 seconds.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** It can be used on a smartphone, iPad, and MacBook Airs.
- **What people post/share:** People can post and share anything they want.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes, you can use Snapchat for negative purposes.
- **Appropriate uses:** Posting pictures of trips, family, friends, or animals. Anything positive that would be okay for anyone to view.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Inappropriate uses would include taking a picture of yourself or others that would not be appropriate for others to view. Although the pictures self-destruct, other users can take a screenshot of your Snap. If someone takes a screenshot, the sender is notified, however, that means that they have the picture stored on their device’s camera roll until they choose to delete it.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** You can choose to add friends, and only the friends that you add are who can view your Snaps.
- **Where did we find this information:** The student knew this information because they use Snapchat.

# Oovoo



- **Name of Site:** Oovoo
- **Anonymous or not:** This app is anonymous, although you have to be friends with the person you want to call or video chat. However, other users can view your bio and profile picture.
- **Description:** Oovoo is a social media, downloadable app that allows you to video call, or call for free. It also allows you to create group calls as well as video calls – it is a basic setup of Skype.
- **How it works:** You can call someone by clicking the call button, but you have to be a friend that person first. There is no other way to view Oovoo other than downloading it.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** Oovoo can be used on the computer, Android, Apple products, or other mobile devices.
- **What people post/share:** People can post comments and images.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes, it can be used for negative purposes.
- **Appropriate uses:** Appropriate uses can be calling family members or friends, using it for school projects, making positive comments, or making new friends.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Inappropriate uses can be images that are not appropriate for everyone to view, or including someone in a call to speak negatively about them.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** Anyone who also has Oovoo can view your account, so you should not include personal information in your bio. Anyone can also view your picture, so you should not include a picture of your actual face unless you have parent/guardian permission.
- **Where did we find this information:** The student knew this information because they have the app and use it.

# Kik.



- **Name of Site:** Kik.
- **Anonymous or not:** Kik. Is not anonymous unless you are set to private.
- **Description:** Kik. Is an app that allows you to text message other users.
- **How it works:** You download the app and then text message people. You can create a username and can have a picture.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** Kik can be used on any device.
- **What people post/share:** People can text message different messages, videos and pictures.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes, Kik can be used for negative purposes.
- **Appropriate uses:** Appropriate uses include texting friends or family members.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Inappropriate uses are talking to strangers, talking about others, and talking about inappropriate information. You can also create a username and picture that does not allow others to know your identity which can cause issues when messaging friends.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** Anyone can view the account unless you have the account set to private.
- **Where did we find this information:** The student knew this information because they use the app.

# Facebook



- **Name of Site** : Facebook
- **Anonymous or not:** No, Facebook is not anonymous.
- **Description:** A social website or app that you can communicate with friends through text, picture, sharing different types of media
- **How it works:** You can search for someone you know, and then “friend” them. If they accept your friend request then you are able to view their profile which includes pictures, videos, and conversations between yourself and others. You can also send private messages in a group, or to separate individuals.
- **What device(s) can it be used on:** Computer, tablet, any Apple product and any smartphone.
- **What people post/share:** Pictures, conversations, status, videos.
- **Can you use this for negative purposes:** Yes – someone could create a fake profile, or share conversations or information about others (pictures/videos) of themselves or others that may be inappropriate.
- **Appropriate uses:** Appropriate pictures and conversations, links or videos that share information, to stay connected with friends, family and peers.
- **Inappropriate uses:** Sharing or sending inappropriate pictures or videos, links, or comments/conversations. Also, the creation of fake profiles/accounts.
- **Who can view account/privacy information/access:** Anyone can view your account or items that you post unless you limit your account settings to private which can allow only “friends” to view your information and profile or the items you share.
- **Where did we find this information:** The student knew this information because they use Facebook.