

The Digital World of Kids: The Parent Connection Discussion

- Texting is a primary form of communication for our youth. The average teen **sends** 4,700 texts per month, with girls averaging 5,200 and boys averaging 4,300.
- It is important that students understand the lack of privacy in their digital speech, along with its permanence.
- There are four basic rules to social media: it is searchable, it is permanent, it is copyable, and it has a global audience.
- All social media sites have their own individual terms of ownership; it is helpful to understand what the basics of those terms say. Of particular interest is the terms in Instagram, Snap Chat and Pokemon Go.
- Remember, lack of privacy and permanence of speech.
- Sexting: 1 in 4 females aged 13 to 18 engage in sexting. Often use ghost or vault apps, and it is not uncommon for images to be shared with people they know only online.
- Act 198 – law pertaining to the sharing of explicit images among youth.
- Act 26 – cyberbullying law.
- Universities, colleges and employers often use information obtained through social media review to assist in decision making. May turn to archive sites for further information.

- There are many ways to monitor the digital speech of youth. Two apps can be particularly helpful – www.uknowkids.com and www.myspy.com.
- Learn as much as possible about your child's digital speech. Ensure you have all passwords and usernames.
- Manage your child's digital world as you do their physical world. Know where they are going, when they are going there, and who they're going with.
- Disconnect your children from their devices at a designated hour each evening, and charge their devices in your bedroom.
- Before buying the latest and greatest device, think through your child's developmental needs.