

Keeping up-to-date with your child's online behavior



With the widespread use of smartphones among preteens and teens, the district is finding a number of mobile apps that are a distraction in the classroom and are being used for cyberbullying, sexting and accessing pornography, all of which are prohibited in schools. We strongly recommend that all parents to be proactive in monitoring smartphone and tablet use. With that in mind, parents should be aware of these popular apps:



Kik

Instant messaging app that acts as a free texting app; no parental controls; becoming a common avenue for sexting



Ask.fm

Allows users to ask questions from other Ask.fm users with the option of anonymity; often used for cyberbullying



Poof

Allows users to hide apps from their screen



Tinder

Online dating app; allows users 12+; intended to match users in a geographic area for dates



Instagram

Adult content can appear frequently on this photo and video sharing app



Down

This app was rebranded after it was removed from iTunes; matches Facebook friends for casual sexual encounters



Yik Yak

Allows users to post anonymous comments to other users in a 10 mile radius; used for threats/bullying; app was intended for "college-age and above"



Facebook

While Facebook does restrict pornographic material, links from posts use Facebook's in-app browser, which bypasses restricted browsers and can lead users to pornographic websites



Snapchat

Photo messaging app; users take photos, record videos, add text and drawings, and send them to recipients with a set time limit for how long recipients can view their "Snaps" (1 to 10 seconds), after which they will be hidden from the recipient's device and deleted from servers



Twitter

Another network with worldwide popularity, Twitter is also liable to contain adult and other inappropriate content in many forms; in-app browser allows users to bypass restricted Internet browsers



Vine

Twitter app that allows users to create and share six-second videos; Twitter raised minimum age limit to 17+ for Vine after pornographic clips began appearing



Keek

Allows users to upload video status updates and share video content through major social media networks; no privacy settings



Whisper

Users submit anonymous questions or confessions as a text over a picture; other users are allowed to comment and **private message**; carries a 17+ rating



Tumblr

Microblogging service that allows users create content and post media on a short-form blog; high amount of pornographic material



Omegle & ChatRoulette

Chat services that allow anonymous users to randomly chat with strangers using instant messaging, video (webcam), or microphone