

## **Social Networking**

A tool that can be used as a means of chatting and exchanging information with other people. Very popular in recent years with Websites and Apps such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

### **Advantages:**

Free
Easy to use
Meet new People
Promote yourself or your business
Take on new Persona
Stay in touch with people all over the world
Share ideas & opinions
Get feedback

### **Disadvantages**

Addictive
Lack of Privacy
Time consuming
Invasion of privacy
False impression
False profiles
Cyber bullying
Predators



*Some guidelines to keep in mind:*

- If people can post comments on your profile, check them regularly. Don't reply to comments that annoy you or make you angry. Stay in control, delete them, block the person, and report them to the website owner.
- Use nicknames or first names on your profile. It's not a good idea to give away online who you are and where you are the same time. People will be able to find you if you give out your address, your school, and talk about where you hang out in your blog.
- As you know, people you meet online are not always who they seem to be. Be careful about getting together with someone you "met" online unless you are certain of their identity. If you do meet them arrange the meeting in a public place and bring some friends along.
- Many sites allow you to decide which parts of your profile can be accessed by others. Assume that everything is public unless you are sure that it isn't. Opting for private doesn't always mean that only your friends can see your profile. In some cases, everything you put on your profile can be seen by everyone but only your friends can post comments or IM you.
- Try and be selective about who you become friends with, you can tell a lot about someone by the company they keep. Ladies, if a guy you don't know 'adds' you and he has nothing but half-dressed girls on his page, don't add him back. Even though they are called friends, people you 'add' are really little more than acquaintances, nobody has 500 friends. Add people you know. Be as popular as you are or aren't.
- Remember, anything you post can not only be seen by others but can easily be copied and stored. Your photos and blogs might be getting you noticed in a way that you didn't intend.

