



THE EWING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Antheil Elementary School

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

The rapidly evolving internet provides many challenges to parents and educators. In order to ensure the safety and security of our students we need to help them become responsible digital citizens.

We are seeing an increase of elementary school students who have smartphones as a means to stay connected with families and friends. Beyond using smartphones for communication, many of our students are actively participating in a variety of social media sites. While social media sites can be a positive and convenient means to communicate and share information, we have experienced students who sometimes post malicious words, pictures and/or videos. When this occurs, sometimes friendships and relationships end publicly on social media sites. These actions can lead to cyber-bullying.

Many students are not aware that there are consequences for negative online behavior that can enter the school and impact the learning and social environment. Within the building, we will continue to remind students about how to resolve conflicts and the appropriate use of social media.

On the reverse side of this letter is a list of the most commonly used social media sites and the recommended age of users (as per Google Play). After reviewing this list you will see that the majority of the sites are for users of age 13 years and above (Teens). Many of the sites listed allow participants to chat, upload pictures, and access personal information with others who they may know from school or have met online.

I ask that you speak to your child(ren) about their social media usage and their level of responsibility and perhaps rethink the accessibility that your child has to sites that are not appropriate for his or her age and social developmental level.

In addition, please continue to regularly check your child's backpack to ensure that he/she is not bringing inappropriate items to school.

As always your attention to and feedback about this situation is greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to contact me by phone or by email if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Whitner
Principal
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Most Popular Applications Used by Students and their Rating as per Google Play

Application Name	Rating	Use
WhatsApp	Everyone	Chat
WeChat	Everyone	Chats, calls and video chats
GroupMe	Everyone	Group Chats
Roblox	Everyone 10+	Chat and games
Snapchat	Teen	Messages and pictures
Instagram	Teen	Messages and pictures
Kik	Teen	Chat
Musical.ly	Teen	Personal videos and messages
Live.ly	Teen	Live video streaming
Whisper	Teen	Anonymous chat and meet people
YouNow	Teen	Live video streaming
HouseParty	Teen	Group video chat
Facebook	Teen	Pictures, videos and messages
YouTube	Teen	View trending videos
Yobo	Teen	Meet people
Tumblr	Mature 17+	Messages, live video streaming, pictures, meet people
Twitter	Mature 17+	Chat, pictures, live stream video
Meetme	Mature 17+	Chat and meet people
Omegle	Mature 17+	Video chat