



Social Media Guidelines

Social media can be a valuable tool for both personal and professional use. However, as with any tool, it must be used with skill and care. The guidelines below have been developed to help protect our students and employees from charges of inappropriate use. Although many of the items below specifically reference Facebook, the guidelines and cautions apply to all social networking venues.

It is strongly recommended that teachers do not “friend” current students and/or students under 18. We understand there may be exceptions (a relative, a friend's child, etc.). However, as a general rule, it is recommended that teachers do not “friend” students.

It is advised that teachers do not friend students' parents as well. District sponsored and approved teacher websites along with the parent portal should be the primary means for electronic parent contact.

Additional Cautions

Remember that on a social networking site, once you post something, it may be available forever, even if you choose to remove it from your page. Post with care.

Never post student work or pictures with students in them without permission from the student (if 18 or older) or his/her parents (for under 18).

Facebook should not be used as your primary means of classroom communication. All parents are not Facebook users and Facebook is currently blocked in our district.

Do not post anything (or post pictures) on Facebook that you would not be comfortable sharing in person with students, parents, administrators, school board members, or the local media.

All school related email communication between teachers and parents should be conducted using your Gadsden City School account (not Facebook messages).

Obviously, no confidential student information (grades, lunch status, special education status, etc.) should ever be posted or shared in any fashion, either privately or publically.

Posts of provocative photographs, sexually explicit messages, or the use of alcohol or drugs which are allowed to be viewed by students (Facebook “friends”) would be considered quite inappropriate and could certainly jeopardize ones employment.