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Nine ideas for...

social media in the classroom

Social media tools provide teachers lots of ways to communicate with students, parents and colleagues. Be sure you're following district guidelines for student privacy!

- 1 BLOG ABOUT IT.**
Use a free blog service such as my.uen's blog tool to let students and parents know what's going on and have your students post reflections on their learning.
- 2 BUILD YOUR OWN SOCIAL NETWORK WITH NING.**
Want a social network for your students only? Ning lets you create and maintain one for a monthly fee.
- 3 MAKE A FACEBOOK FAN PAGE.**
Connect with students online. Create a Fan page and they don't have to be your Friend to see your posts, video tutorials and announcements.
- 4 CONNECT WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS THROUGH TWITTER.**
Sometimes 140 characters is plenty. Create a hashtag (#) for messages related to class and others can find them even if they don't have a Twitter account.
- 5 HANG OUT ON GOOGLE+.**
With Google+ up to 10 people can gather online from wherever they are, making it easier to connect your students with guest speakers.
- 6 PIN IT.**
Pinterest lets you collect images with links from the web, group them into "boards" and provide captions. Your students can visit the sites and comment on your posts.
- 7 SHARE PHOTOS WITH INSTAGRAM.**
Instagram makes photo sharing simple. Add hashtags or the @ symbol with a class username to collect photos of what's happening in your classroom.
- 8 FIND AND SHARE TITLES WITH GOODREADS.**
Looking for a good book? Want to rave about something you've read? Goodreads is a place to find reviews, make recommendations and more.
- 9 CHECK IN WITH FOURSQUARE.**
Foursquare is location-based social networking. Check in your field trip locations and let your students write reviews.

UEN offers a wide range of ed-tech classes for educators, online and in-person, plus Faculty Lounge webinars. Learn more at www.uen.org/development/.