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/](http://www.uen.org/development/).