

October: Social Media Trends: What Parents Need to Know

PARENT AWARENESS FLYER • GRADES 6-8 • 2026–2027

WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD KNOW

Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, Discord, and gaming chats can amplify rumors, comparison, and private messages.

WARNING SIGNS TO RECOGNIZE

- New secret or secondary accounts
- Distress after notifications
- Pressure to respond immediately or maintain streaks

TRY THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS

“Which apps make you feel connected or stressed?”

“Who can see your location or stories?”

“What should we do when a post feels threatening?”

THREE PRACTICAL STEPS

- Review account privacy and location sharing.
- Agree on overnight device boundaries.
- Save and report threats rather than forwarding them.

IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG: Stay calm, support your child, save relevant messages or links (do not forward intimate images), and report urgent threats to law enforcement. Report suspected child sexual exploitation at report.cybertip.org. For immediate danger, call 911.

Family resources: missingkids.org/netsmartz | commonsensemedia.org | fbi.gov