Digital "Footprints": Social Media and Teenagers

Digital Footprints

Presented by:
Passaic County Technical Institute’s Crisis Response Team
+ Crisis Response Team

Our purpose is to monitor and mitigate:

- Crises trends in school
- Work with parents, faculty, and students
- Positively affect our school culture
We have given our kids cars.

We have given our kids the keys to the cars.

Most people don’t know how to drive these cars.

So how are they learning to drive?
About Me

Father, Husband, Principal, Musician

- Blog: mikeparent.blogspot.com
- Twitter: @mikeparent
- LinkedIn: michaelrparent
Our Agenda

1. What are “social media”?
2. What is a “digital footprint”?
3. How do I know what my child’s footprint is?
4. How do I talk about digital footprints with my child?
“Social Media are evil and you need to stop the apocalypse by going home and selling their devices.”

“Teenagers are going to mess up their lives on social media and now you have to go home and give them a good lecture.”

“Social Media is a fad…”
What are Social Media?

“…computer-mediated tools that allow people to create, share or exchange information, ideas, and pictures/videos in virtual communities and networks.”
Social Media are Here To Stay…

We have given children keys to a car… but may not have taught them how to drive.

We have always looked out for our children’s social and emotional well-being… we cannot stop now – especially not now.
Social Media Allows Us To…

- Connect with others who share common interests
- Engage in relevant conversation
- Share ideas
- Showcase awards, talents, creative endeavors
- Build a learning network
- Decipher news and information
- Engage in “the new democracy”
What is a Digital Footprint?
Digital Footprints

Who does a digital footprint apply to?  
Everyone

Why should we care?  
Because Others Do.. Like Employers, Schools, and Government

How do we manage it?  
By Being Diligent, Cautious, Caring

How do we maintain it?  
By Exercising… (Figuratively Speaking)
“It takes many good deed to build a good reputation and only one bad one to lose it.”

-Benjamin Franklin
What Is A “Good” Footprint?

- **Social media profiles** - interesting, 'clean', demonstrating your positive personality
- **Website or Blog** - create a website about something you're interested in or passionate about. Write interesting articles, post creative pictures, etc.
- **Blog comments** - comment **sensibly and positively** on other websites or blogs that are about things of interest to you
- **Shared photos** - share your creative, artistic, sensible photos on photo-sharing sites such as Flickr
- **Youtube** - create your own Youtube channel and post videos you've created about your interests or passions
- **Newspapers** - contribute articles to your local newspaper or comment on articles of interest
- **College newsletter** - achieve at school in a positive way to be mentioned or contribute articles to the College newsletter
- **Book reviews** - contribute reviews to relevant sites
How do I know what my child’s footprint is?
Resources for Parents

• Your Digital Footprint: http://digitalfootprintimu.weebly.com/

• Avira Socialshield Social Network Protection: https://www.socialshield.com/

• Institute for Internet Safety: https://www.iisafety.org/
Resources for Parents

- Use a search engine like Google or Yahoo to search your teen’s name and username(s).
- Review the apps your teen uses on their smartphone and the computer.
- Talk about how what they posts is viewed by others and how it could affect them if it is seen by a college admissions office, military recruiter, or hiring manager.
Better Yet.. Make Friends With #

Open a Twitter account

Open an Instagram Account (on your phone)

A # is like a topical index keeper or tag
How do I talk about digital footprints with my child?
Social Media are Here To Stay…

We have given children keys to a car… but may not have taught them how to drive.

We have always looked out for our children’s social and emotional well-being… we cannot stop now – especially not now.
Digital “Footprints”:
Social Media and Teenagers

Digital Footprints

Presented by:
Passaic County Technical Institute’s Crisis Response Team