



1  <a href="http://www.twitter.com">www.twitter.com</a>	2  <a href="http://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>	3  <a href="http://www.instagram.com">www.instagram.com</a>	4  <a href="http://www.snapchat.com">www.snapchat.com</a>
5  <a href="http://www.tumblr.com">www.tumblr.com</a>	6  <a href="http://www.plus.google.com">www.plus.google.com</a>	7  <a href="http://www.vine.co">www.vine.co</a>	8  <a href="http://www.wanelo.com">www.wanelo.com</a>
9  <a href="http://www.kik.com">www.kik.com</a>	10  <a href="http://www.oovoo.com">www.oovoo.com</a>	11  <a href="http://www.yikyakapp.com">www.yikyakapp.com</a>	12  <a href="http://www.ask.fm">www.ask.fm</a>
13  <a href="http://www.whatsapp.com">www.whatsapp.com</a>	14  <a href="http://www.omegle.com">www.omegle.com</a>	15  <a href="http://www.justyo.co">www.justyo.co</a>	16  <a href="http://www.whisper.sh">www.whisper.sh</a>

Here are the most popular social media sites students go to with some basic information about each one. They are not listed in any particular order.

— (Adapted from Common Sense Media “15 Sites and Apps Kids are Heading to Beyond Facebook”)

1



[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

**Twitter** allows users to post 140-character messages called “tweets” and follow other users’ activities (such as athletes, brands, celebrities and news organizations). Even though you can delete tweets, screen captures and retweets can memorialize ill-advised tweets. Talk to teens about what they post and how a post can spread far and fast.

2



[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

**Facebook** is a social media platform that allows you to add others as friends, post status updates and photos, and receive notifications when others update their profiles. Facebook now has over one billion users worldwide though in recent years many teens have left the site for other platforms. Some teens say there are too many adults on the website now. In fact, 47 percent of users are over age 35.

3



[www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com)

**Instagram** lets users snap, edit, and share photos, and 15-second videos. It is a hit because it unites the most popular features of social media – sharing, seeing and commenting. Teens may measure the “success” of their images – even their self-worth – by the number of likes or comments they receive. Instagram Direct allows users to send “private messages” to up to 15 mutual friends (these do not appear on public feeds).

4



[www.snapchat.com](http://www.snapchat.com)

**Snapchat** is a messaging app that lets users put a time limit on the pictures and videos they send before they disappear. Snapchat’s creators intended the app’s images to be a way for teens to share fun, light moments without the risk of having them go public. While most teens use it for that purpose, the seemingly risk-free messaging does encourage some to “sext.” It is a myth that Snapchats go away forever; they can be recovered.

5

**tumblr.**

[www.tumblr.com](http://www.tumblr.com)

**Tumblr** is a cross between a blog and Twitter. Users create and follow short blogs, or “tumblelogs,” that can be seen by anyone online (if made public). Many teens use it for sharing photos, videos and funny items, but inappropriate images and videos are easily searchable. Reblogging on Tumblr is similar to re-tweeting.

6


[www.plus.google.com](http://www.plus.google.com)

**Google+** is Google's social network. It is open to teens (some of which may use Google products such as Drive and Docs at school). It has attempted to improve on Facebook's friend concept by using "circles" that give users more control. One popular aspect is the addition of real-time video chats in Hangouts (virtual gatherings with approved friends). Google+ has age-appropriate privacy default settings for any users whose registration information shows them to be teens.

7


[www.vine.co](http://www.vine.co)

**Vine** lets users post and watch looping six-second video clips. This Twitter-owned service features videos that range from silly or clever videos to explicit or inappropriate videos. Your videos, accounts and comments all default to public so beware of possible privacy concerns.

8


[www.wanelo.com](http://www.wanelo.com)

**Wanelo** (Want, Need, Love) combines shopping, fashion blogging, and social networking all in one. It is popular among teens, allowing them to discover, share, and buy products they like.

9


[www.kik.com](http://www.kik.com)

**Kik Messenger** is an app-based alternative to standard texting that kids use for social networking. Parents should be aware of strangers. An app named OinkText, linked to Kik, allows communication with strangers who share their Kik usernames to find people to chat with. There is also a community blog where users can submit photos of themselves and screenshots of messages (sometimes displaying users' full names) to contests.

10


[www.oovoo.com](http://www.oovoo.com)

**Oovoo** is a free video, voice, and messaging app. Users can have group chats with up to 12 people for free. Teens mostly use Oovoo to "hang out" with friends after schools. You can only chat with approved friends. Users can only communicate with those on their approved "contact list," which can help ease parents' concerns.

11


[www.yikyakapp.com](http://www.yikyakapp.com)

**Yik Yak** is a free, location-aware, social-networking app that lets users post "anything and everything" anonymously through brief, Twitter-like comments, which are distributed to the geographically nearest 500 people signed into the app. Some school districts have banned access due to cyberbullying, rumors and explicit information about drugs and alcohol.

12


[www.ask.fm](http://www.ask.fm)

**Ask.fm** lets users ask questions and answer those posted by other users — sometimes anonymously. Although there are some friendly interactions on Ask.fm, there are also some bullying comments and sexual posts. The site also allows you to sync with Facebook.

13


[www.whatsapp.com](http://www.whatsapp.com)

**WhatsApp** lets users send text messages, audio messages, videos, and photos to one or many people with no message limits or fees. It is intended for users 16 and older.

14


[www.omegle.com](http://www.omegle.com)

**Omegle** is a chat site (and app) that puts two strangers together in their choice of a text chat or video chat room. This app is not appropriate for teens; it is often used by people searching for sexual chats.

15


[www.justyo.co](http://www.justyo.co)

**Yo.** is a bare-bones social app that sends a short text message, simply reading “Yo” (and speaking the word aloud). The app’s simple design and recent popularity have attracted the attention of hackers.

16


[www.whisper.sh](http://www.whisper.sh)

**Whisper** is a social “confessional” app that allows users to post whatever is on their minds, paired with an image. Whispers are often sexual or dark in nature, with users trying to meet people or telling lies. Although it is anonymous to start, it may not stay that way. The app encourages users to exchange personal information in the “Meet Up” section.