

Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation

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Navigating the Digital World

Dear Parents,

As you all know, kids today are challenged with the ever-changing world of technology. Every day there is something better and more exciting than yesterday. Whether it is a funny blog, a picture on Instagram, or a post on Snapchat, there is always something new for them to discover. In doing our part to stay connected to the intermediate and middle school world, we found a useful resource for parents to know about. It's called Smart Social and they recently published this <u>article</u> that categorizes apps that kids might use into 4 different categories: green, gray, red, and orange.

The information may seem overwhelming but please do not be alarmed. The purpose of this is to inform you about the newest trends so that you can keep an open dialog with your children. We encourage you to take the extra step and ask for account passwords, Google your child's name, set accounts to private, and continually monitor their internet behavior. Please remember that even though you are talking to your children, it does not mean they are telling you everything!

P.S. Be on the lookout for some type of programming this spring aimed at supporting parents as they navigate the digital world with their children.

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