



TikTok



TikTok has taken the world by storm. It's completely taken over the social media world with its wide range of videos and sounds. TikTok gives you free reign on creativity. With a minimum age of 13 years old, there are so many different age groups using this app to share their videos.

Here are some things to be aware of:

- ⇒ If privacy settings are not set anyone using this app can view your child's videos. When TikTok is initially downloaded, it is open to the public. Users are responsible for setting the account to private.
- ⇒ Videos can be shared over several other social media sites. TikToks can be viewed on Instagram and Facebook as "reels."
- ⇒ TikTok videos are not filtered out by age. Unfortunately, there is no way to control which videos end up on your child's "for you page" (home page, also known as fyp).
- ⇒ Locations can be shared by content in the video. If the TikTok video is made at home check to see if the video includes personal info such as: address or location within the content of the video.

TikTok Safety Tips:

- ◆ Ensure that your child's account is set to private and there are no strangers following them.
- ◆ Discuss what is appropriate in videos and that personal information should never be shared.
- ◆ The Family Pairing feature on TikTok allows for parents to gain access to more safety controls such as: screen time control, restricted mode, discoverability, direct message, and more. Refer to the TikTok safety features website for more information on family pairing. (<https://support.tiktok.com/en/safety-hc/account-and-user-safety>).

Scott's Tips:

"I believe expressing creativity is very important and needed. However, if we do not think about safety while we are being creative, there can be consequences."

Through my experience with TikTok and talking to so many students about this app it has its positive applications but once an app allows us to make comments and share content is when we have to be very cautious of what we do and say.

To Parents, look over your child's account, videos and followers.

To Students, be cautious and do not hide anything from your parents. If you can show the internet your video you should be able to show your parents. Open communication with your parents is one of the biggest keys to being safe."

Be Safe!

Scott Driscoll

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