

FACEBOOK.COM

YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW THIS IS AN INCREDIBLY POPULAR WEBSITE AND MOST EVERY TEENAGER USES THIS WEBSITE, IN-FACT YOU MAY BE USING IT YOURSELF. FACEBOOK IS A GREAT IDEA FOR SOCIAL NETWORKING; IT HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT WITH FRIENDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. SOCIAL NETWORKING HAS EVEN TAKEN OVER PORN ON THE INTERNET AS THE MOST VISITED SITES.

THE GOOD STUFF ON FACEBOOK:

1. CONNECTS:

THE SITE ALLOWS FRIENDS TO STAY CONNECTED AND SHARE PICTURES AND MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH.

2. FUN:

YOU CAN GET THE SCOOP TO ALMOST ANY BAND AND ANY MUSIC THAT IS OUT THERE ON FACEBOOK. THERE ARE FUN VIDEOS AND HONESTLY IT IS FUN PUTTING TOGETHER YOUR OWN PAGE.

THE DANGERS OF FACEBOOK:

1. ADVERTISEMENTS: FACEBOOK IS FREE BUT IS PAID FOR BY ADVERTISEMENTS ON THE SIDE BAR OF THE SITE. OCCASIONALLY THERE MIGHT BE QUESTIONABLE ADVERTISEMENTS LIKE THERE MIGHT BE ON DURING A TV SHOW.

2. SOME APPLICATIONS-FLAIRS AND BUMPER STICKERS SOMETIMES CONTAIN QUESTIONABLE LANGUAGE AND INNUENDOS.

3. WHAT OTHERS MIGHT WRITE- FRIENDS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE MESSAGES TO OTHER FRIENDS ON THEIR PAGE & AS WITH ANY FRIEND, WHAT MIGHT BE WRITTEN BY ANOTHER COULD BE QUESTIONABLE.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR STUDENT'S FACEBOOK.

YOU NEED TO KNOW THE PASSWORD AND BE REGULARLY CHECKING THEIR PAGE FOR ANY SUSPICIOUS FRIENDS OR ACTIVITY. YOU CAN ALSO HAVE ALL ACTIVITY SENT TO YOUR EMAIL LETTING YOU KNOW EVERYTHING THAT IS BEING REQUESTED OF YOUR TEEN.

BY THE WAY, YOUR TEENAGER IS PROBABLY NOT GOING TO LIKE THIS ONE. BUT THIS IS A BATTLE WORTH WINNING. I BELIEVE THAT IF A STUDENT CANNOT SHARE THEIR FACEBOOK WITH YOU THEN THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE ONE. IF THEY DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE IT IS BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS ON THERE THAT YOU WOULD NOT APPROVE OF.

2. CLEAN IT UP. (NO SEXUAL IMAGES POSES OR REVEALING CLOTHES)

WATCH WHAT PICTURES YOUR TEEN PUT UP AS PROFILE OR JUST PHOTOS IN THEIR PHOTO BOOK.

3. SET YOUR STUDENT'S FACEBOOK TO "PRIVATE".

THIS IS EASY TO DO; IT BLOCKS ANYONE WHO IS NOT YOUR FRIEND FROM VIEWING YOUR PROFILE. THIS IS A MUST. TEENS DON'T LIKE THIS BECAUSE IT IS HARDER TO GET FRIENDS AND DO CERTAIN STUFF, BUT IT IS A MUST FOR SAFETY.

4. DON'T APPROVE FRIENDS UNLESS YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE.

EPH 5:15-16 - BE VERY CAREFUL, THEN, HOW YOU LIVE--NOT AS UNWISE BUT AS WISE, MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL.

ANYONE CAN ASK TO BE YOUR FRIEND, BUT IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO CHECK AND MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHO THAT PERSON IS BEFORE YOU ACCEPT THEM.

CONCLUSION:

FACEBOOK IS A GREAT PLACE FOR TEENS TO HAVE AN OUTLET. IF SET-UP CORRECTLY IT CAN BE A VERY SAFE PLACE FOR YOUR STUDENTS. IT IS FUN AND EVEN OUR YOUTH GROUP HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE.