

TECHNOLOGY



CONVERSATION GUIDE

... for intentional conversations with students

By the time a student gets to middle and high school, technology is a solid part of their life. Your few are citizens of a digital world full of social media and technology. Sure, you're probably a little annoyed at the sight of one of your few continually sneaking peeks at his or her phone, but technology can be a good thing—even a great thing. And you can really connect with your few through it.

And as conversations happen, you have the chance to refine how your few think and feel about social media before they graduate and leave “parental control.” So how do you talk about technology with high school students? Stay positive, and stay informed. Get the conversation started with some words to say and not to say.

Middle and high schoolers might seem tech savvy, but they aren't life savvy yet. Technology can be a really hilarious and awesome experience for your few to navigate with people and information just a few clicks away, but it can also get a little more serious in this phase— especially as students tend not to fully understand the effect of what they see and do online.

So how do you talk about technology with middle school students?

Stay positive, and stay informed. We want to help you get the conversation started by giving you some words to say and not to say.

WHAT TO SAY:

- “If someone looked at everything you post and tweet, what would they learn about who you are?”
- “Do you keep location services open on your phone? Are you taking precautions to prevent dangerous situations?”
- “Do you know that colleges look at social media platforms when reviewing applications or considering athletic scholarships?”
- “What are things you could post so other people, like recruiters or potential employers, see the best of you?”
- “I know it’s tempting to use your phone while driving, but I think it’s something that we should all keep each other in check about.”
- “What’s your name on Instagram/Twitter/Snapchat/etc.? Let’s all follow each other, and we can make a small group hashtag where we keep all of our pictures and posts.”
- “Do you know that everything you post, text, or tweet is public? Even though you can use some privacy settings, nothing online is 100% private.”

WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- Avoid saying nothing. Keep the conversation going, and avoid the impulse to disconnect.
- Anything that assumes the worst. Ask questions and be informed, but try not to jump to conclusions.
- “Watch out for stalkers on the Internet. People might kidnap you.”
- “Social media is a great place to have a conversation with someone when you don’t want to talk to them in person.”