

GREEN ZONE: [SmartSocial.com](https://www.smartsocial.com) considers to be safe for Teens and Tweens:

The internet can be a dangerous place for teens. However, we feel that these apps are the “lesser of three evils” as they can be used to help a student (14+ years of age) shine online to impress colleges and future employers. When used wisely with our social media, these apps will help your students to create a portfolio of positive online accomplishments.



Amazon Rapids

Age: 4+

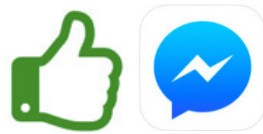
Amazon Rapids is a reading app for children ages 5 – 12 that is associated with a Parent’s Amazon account. This service is designed to make reading fun, boost reading confidence, and encourage creativity. Parents can utilize Amazon Rapids to start a dialog with their children.



Facebook

Age: 13+

Users on Facebook can share to the network from their desktop, tablet and/or mobile phone. Although Facebook has very robust privacy controls, we tell every child that “everything you post online is going to eventually be public.” This is because networks like Facebook have been known to quickly change their privacy settings without telling people and sometimes secrets are shared.



Facebook Messenger (Owned by Facebook)

Age: 13+

Facebook messenger allows you to chat with anyone on Facebook. We suggest for parents to add their students on Facebook and to monitor who they are adding as friends. Facebook Messenger is tied to a student’s real identity, reducing the amount of bullying and anonymous messaging.



Instagram (Owned by Facebook)

Age: 13+

Instagram sharing application that allows users to take photos, and one-minute videos, apply a filter, and share it on the app. Parents should know that Instagram also has private messaging feature which students can use instead of texting. Instagram has also added some “disposable” features to try and copy Snapchat. Instagram can potentially be great if it is used in a positive manner for showcasing one’s accomplishments

watch for a hidden link with photos that are not on their page. Vsco.co followed by their name*



LinkedIn (Owned by Microsoft)

Age: 14+

LinkedIn is the world’s largest professional network. It is an important tool for teens who want to improve their Google results when applying to college. It is the best place to start an online image to impress colleges and future employers.



Pinterest

Age: 13+

Pinterest is a visual discovery tool that helps users find and save ideas. It’s a great source of inspiration for students. They can use Pinterest to find studying tips, DIYs and more. Kids can have fun on Pinterest but know there can be some adult content on the network, so parents should be close by to observe activity



Prezi

Age: 13+

Prezi is a presentation software that allows users to create and share visually engaging slide presentations through their website. Having a positive presentation can showcase a student’s passion and knowledge on a specific subject. Presentations like these can help students create a positive digital footprint. Although the app is for educational purposes only, presentations can contain inappropriate content and explicit images.



Twitter

Age: 13+

Twitter allows you to send messages with up to 280 characters in length (and include photos and videos). Twitter is a place where students feel they can diary their feelings, not realizing their Tweets are tied to their identity and able to be seen by colleges and employers. When a student is ready to be online, we suggest they consider Twitter but share very positive and constructive content on the network.



YouTube (Owned by Google)

Age: 13+

YouTube is the world's second largest search engine. Statistics show that YouTube is used by more students than almost any other network. Parents should know that if your student is under 13 years of age they should be present when their kids are watching videos on YouTube, since some content can be worse than late night HBO. Positive videos can turn a student's Google results into a three dimensional version of their college resume. YouTube also has a multitude of educational videos you can learn from.

GRAY ZONE: Parents should participate in these apps with students to keep them safe. These apps can be good (and bad) for your Teens and Tweens.

The gray zone is a place where your students WANT to hang out, but if they post in a way that's anything less than wise, it could hurt them.. We will call this the "family zone" since many of the apps can be entertaining, and let your student express themselves. As long as parents are nearby and following the students on each of these apps, it can be more safe. We recommend you have a dialog with your kids about Sexting and inappropriate content if your kids have these apps.



Facebook Messenger Kids

Age: 6+

Facebook Messenger Kids is a video chat and messaging app that's built for kids and designed to give parents more control. Whenever kids receive a friend request, that request is sent to their parents to either approve or deny. Messages can't be hidden and don't disappear.



Google Hangouts

Age: 13+

Google Hangouts is a messaging platform that is tied to your Gmail address. Users can message friends, start free video or voice calls, and start a conversation with one person or a group. Some parents have found predators targeting their kids through Google Hangouts to try and entice them into partaking in video calls or sending photos of themselves.



Houseparty App

Age: 14+

Houseparty is a video chat app that lets teens video chat with 2-8 people at the same time. All chats are unmoderated which means students can come in contact with inappropriate content or cyberbullies.



Minecraft

Age: 7+

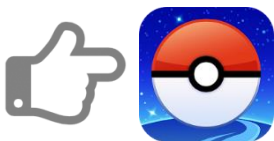
Minecraft is the best-selling PC game of all time. While Minecraft may be used for educational purposes, players can encounter bullying, inappropriate content and even viruses when playing this game.



Periscope App (Owned by Twitter)

Age: 13+

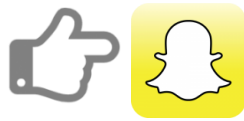
Periscope allows users to watch and broadcast real time videos from their phones. It's easy to find your kids on Periscope if you know their Twitter usernames. Most of the content on this app is unmonitored and your students can watch live videos from all over the world.



Pokémon Go

Age: 9+

Pokémon Go is an augmented-reality mobile game. Consider playing as a family and remind your child that they can always contact you if they encounter anything suspicious while playing Pokémon Go.



Snapchat App

Age: 13+

Snapchat promises your kids they can take a photo/video, send it to a friend and the content will only be viewed once and then will disappear. We as adults know that's not true, but students feel ok sharing very personal moments on Snapchat as they begin to trust people. Snapchat also has a "story" feature that lets users share some videos/posts for 24 hours on their feed. Parents should add their students on the app and occasionally view their content.



tbh App (Owned by Facebook)

Age: 12+

TBH stands for "to be honest", and the tbh app is a social networking platform where users anonymously answer questions/polls about their classmates. Even though the questions/polls are approved by the developers, tbh can still promote bullying and make it easier for students to become a target.



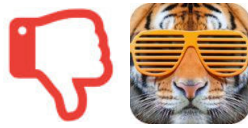
WhatsApp Messenger (Owned by Facebook)

Age: 16+

WhatsApp is a mobile messenger that allows students to use wifi to bypass their SMS/Text messaging feature and directly message other users on the app. This app is owned by Facebook Users can share their location and contacts with other users.

RED ZONE: ANONYMOUS APPS – Here are the apps SmartSocial.com considers to be NOT safe for Teens and Tweens.

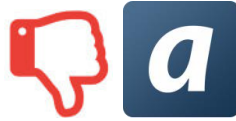
These are the apps SmartSocial.com does not recommend for Teens or Tweens. These apps usually have inappropriate and unmoderated content. Also, they lend themselves to cyberbullying. Often, these apps are anonymous and will encourage students to behave in a way we have never seen before. When students use an app in anonymous mode (without it being tied to their real identity) they tend to behave badly. They are also more prone to bullying and predators in this zone.



AfterSchool App

Age: 17+

AfterSchool App is an anonymous app that creates a separate chat group for every school. It has been removed twice from the AppStore because of threats and arrests. Messages often include bullying, pornography, and alcohol or drug references.



Ask.fm

Age: 13+

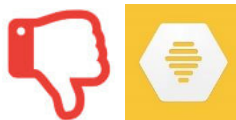
Ask.fm is one of the godfathers of cyber bullying apps (as it has been around for quite some time). It encourages students to set up a public profile and allow anonymous people to ask them questions. This encourages bullying, kids often reveal too much personal information on this site, and cyberbullying is very prevalent.



The Blue Whale Challenge

Age: 10+

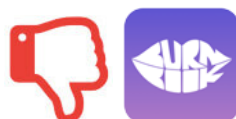
The Blue Whale Challenge creates opportunities for predators to target victims on social media by forcing teens to perform harmful tasks over 50 days, with the last task urging the victim to commit suicide. Get involved, have a healthy dialog with your students about their day and social media. Pay attention to any changes in your teen's behavior, especially if they become reserved, withdrawn, or fearful of social media. Consider contacting your teen's school. If your child has engaged with anything like the Blue Whale Challenge, other students might be engaging with it too.



Bumble App

Age: 17+

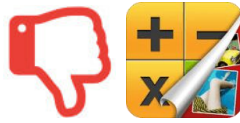
Similar to Tinder, Bumble is a mobile dating app. However, on the Bumble app women must be the first to make contact. Tweens and teens have been known to lie about their age and create fake accounts on apps like Bumble. Also, Bumble makes it easy for predators to target victims.



BurnBook App

Age: 18+

BurnBook is an anonymous app for posting text, photos and audio rumor messages about others. The app compiles messages by school, so the app requires access to your location. It encourages students to screenshot the rumors and save them to their phone, which causes bullying issues.



Calculator% Private Photo App

Age: 4+

The “Private Photo (Calculator%)” app is designed to help students hide photos and videos behind an innocent looking calculator app. This application looks like a calculator but entering a passcode opens a private area



Finstagram App

Age: 13+

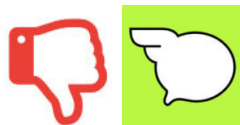
Finstagram (Finsta) is a fake (or second) Instagram account. Students get a second Instagram account along with their real Instagrams, to post silly pictures or videos (without their parents knowing about the second account).



GroupMe App (Owned by Microsoft)

Age: 13+

GroupMe is a messaging app where users can send group or private messages from their computer or phone using WiFi. Since activity from the GroupMe app doesn't show up on their parents' phone bill, some students use the app to hide their messaging activity.



Jott Messenger App

Age: 13+

Jott Messenger is an app that allows students to send messages without a data plan or a WiFi connection. Jott messenger creates a closed network with other devices (usually using a direct bluetooth signal) and can reach other users up to 100-feet. Like Snapchat, Jott includes a “self-destructing” feature that lets the user decide when a message, photo, or video will disappear.



Kik Messenger App (Based in Canada)

Age: 17+

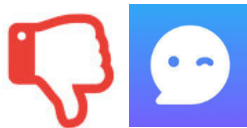
Kik allows anyone on the app to contact your child and directly message them. It has been known to allow adults to communicate with preteens, and is very difficult to discern who is a predator and who is real. Kik allows students to bypass text messaging features of their phone. Users can connect with anyone on the network and aren't limited to their phone's contact list.



Live.ly App

Age: 13+

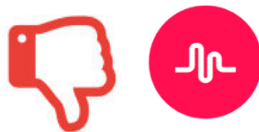
Live.ly is a video streaming app from the creators of Musical.ly where users can broadcast live video or video chat with friends. There are reports of students using this app to play truth or dare, it's not uncommon to see students younger than 13 on the app, and some parents call it a "pedophile hunting ground".



Look App

Age: 12+

The Look app is a free messaging app that combines live video with text messaging. Look allows users to send text messages saying the user invited them to join the app. This has sometimes been seen as a spammy feature. Also, some users have reported that it can be difficult to delete your Look account and that it's easy for strangers to message you on the app.



Musical.ly App

Age: 13+

Musical.ly is a popular app that let's users create lip-syncing videos to their favorite songs. While this app may be fun for teens it may be scary for tweens due to the adult songs that can be found on this app. Has also been linked to 'hidden' pages promoting anorexia and self-harm.