



Taming the Web

Bringing the Internet
Safely into the Classroom

August 2008

The virtual world is the main street of the 21st century

- > 93% of teens use the internet
- > 55% of teens ages 12-17 have created a profile on social networking sites such as Facebook or MySpace
- > 47% of online teens have uploaded photos of themselves and 15% have posted videos

[Pew Internet & American Life Project](#)

The Internet in Education

- > The Internet is a virtual reference library, a 24/7 guidance counselor, and the most portable locker, backpack, and notebook imaginable.

[Christian Science Monitor](#)

- > Technology enables anytime, anywhere learning
- > Gives students tools to communicate and collaborate globally
- > Prepares students with 21st century skills like teamwork, information literacy, and critical thinking

Effective uses of the Internet in Education

> Social Networking

- Goodreads (<http://www.goodreads.com/>)
- Flat Classroom Project (<http://flatclassrooms.ning.com>)
- Educator Collaboration (<http://computerliaisons.ning.com>)

> Blogs

- Classroom Blog (http://pc40s.blogspot.com/2005_02_01_archive.html)
- School Newsletters (<http://rmhs5.blogspot.com>)

> Wikis

- Student-run wikis (<http://summersurvival.wikispaces.com>)
- Teacher-run wikis (<http://ms88ipw.wikispaces.com>)

Our share of issues with the open classroom

- > What schools encounter with students on the web
 - > Cyberbullying via instant messaging, video sharing, and on social networking sites.
 - > Students who are creating an unsafe online environment by posting pictures of themselves and personally identifiable information on the web

How schools respond

- > Acknowledge the issue and do our part to keep our children safe
- > Educate children how to protect themselves
 - > Inform them of the potential threats
 - > Equip them with strategies to identify and steer clear of internet dangers
 - > Educate them about the wider implications of their online life

How do we keep our children SAFE online?

- > **By Modeling how to exist in the virtual world**
- > **Internet filters and protection software cannot be substituted for an active online presence for guardians of children**
- > **Parents can best protect their children when they exist in the virtual world to observe, listen, participate, and experience where their children spend their time**
- > **Educators can model appropriate behavior and usage of the internet**

iSafe Curriculum Resource

- > iSafe is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to educate and empower youth to make their Internet experiences safe and responsible. The goal is to educate students on how to avoid dangerous, inappropriate, or unlawful behavior.
- > <http://www.isafe.org>
 - > An online hub for teen participation
 - > Virtual learning for parents and educators

Questions?

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