

TWITTER POLICY & RATIONALE

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Social Media in the Classroom!

To keep parents at the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School (Jacksonville, Florida/USA) in the loop about Social Media use in the classroom, the following Twitter Policy and Rationale was posted.

What is Twitter?

Twitter is a social media platform, a micro-blogging service. Every tweet is limited to 140 characters or less. Twitter is surfacing everywhere in our daily lives, from your favorite restaurant chain to your clergy, politicians, celebrities, sports team and TV shows. What is less known about Twitter is the academic value of learning with and from other educators and students, experts, authors, organizations, companies from around the world that support 21st century learning. By tweeting with our students, we expose them to social networking strategies, support

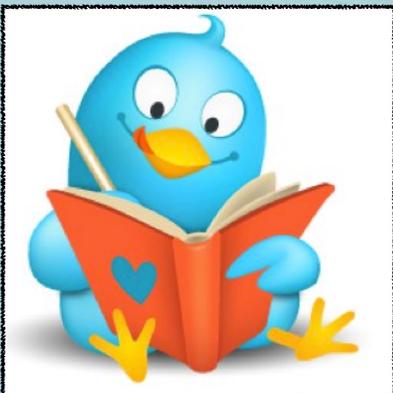


Digital Citizenship & Internet Safety

their growth as global digital citizens and model focused, clear writing.

Our students DO NOT tweet on personal accounts. The tweeting classrooms are using a classroom Twitter account, set up and managed by the classroom teachers and the 21st century learning team. We monitor and choose carefully, who is allowed to follow the classroom Twitter stream and who

we follow on Twitter. Netiquette, Internet safety, digital citizenship including copyright lessons are interwoven throughout the year and continuously discussed and reinforced. Netiquette is defined as the “acceptable” way how to communicate on the Internet. Learning acceptable behavior is part of digital Citizenship, one of the core literacies of the 21st century. We remind students of our classroom rules and emphasize that “real



21st Century Skills & Literacies

Twitter is not the only tool that our classroom and students use to connect globally. We use a variety of platforms, such as blogs, wikis, podcasts and Skype to allow our students to practice skills such as communicating, collaborating, connecting, creating and critical thinking skills. These tools also expose them to and support emerging 21st century literacies (global literacy, network literacy, media literacy, information literacy) in addition to basic literacy skills (reading and writing).

world” etiquette, rules and consequences transfer to online behavior as well.

The use of Twitter in the classroom follows the Martin J. Gottlieb Day School’s guidelines for Media and Publishing release. Tweets will occasionally mention students’ first name, but never their last name. We will also be sharing classroom images, video or audio, directly related to student learning.

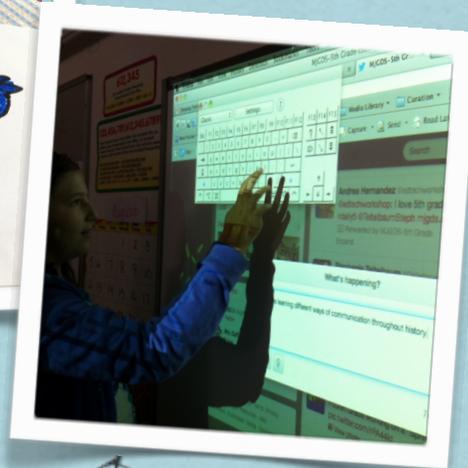
Twitter As a Tool for Learning

We want students to produce and contribute developmentally and age appropriate quality content. This is a process that can only be internalized by “doing”. The focus of Twitter in our classrooms is always learning. We connect, share and reflect on our learning experiences at school as well as tap into and link to individual student background knowledge. Younger students will tweet and document experiences they have through observation. Older students will be “thinking” about their learning on a deeper level and learn to articulate their metacognitive process of reflection.

TWITTER AROUND CAMPUS



* First Grade students drawing a “Twitter” bird as a part of an off-line writing activity in preparation of tweeting as a classroom.



5th graders tweeting for the first time. Students start out with tweeting

The classroom teacher and 21st century learning team will actively search for and connect classrooms with same grade level twitter buddies and pre-approved mentors, to give students an authentic audience for their writing, with whom students can share their learning, ask questions and gain perspective.

...First graders might read a story with another first grade class from Canada

and collaboratively tweet a summary of the story or describe the main characters. They might even share, via Twitter, a link to artwork they created illustrating the story’s setting.

...Fifth graders might tweet with a High School history teacher from Boston about their studies of the American Revolution and might receive images of historic sites.

TWEET CHECKLIST:



As students tweet, they learn about word choices, clarity, the writing process (write/revise/edit/publish), networking skills, research skills, summarizing skills, global awareness and connections.



We will be continuously modeling quality during the process. Before we click the “tweet” button, the class will ask if their tweet:

- ...is informative?
- ...documents their learning?
- ...asks questions?
- ...responds to someone’s ?s
- ...curates information for specific audiences?
- ...links to quality resources?
- ...adds value to any links re-tweeted?
- ...states its intent clearly?
- ...is globally conscious?
- ...is grammatically correct?
- ...is spelled correctly?