

Popular Internet Sites

MySpace, Facebook and YouTube

~MySpace is a popular social networking website offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music, and videos internationally.

~ Though MySpace can be an easy way for teens to keep in touch and “talk” with one another, there are obvious dangers that can take place with displaying so much personal information on the internet.

~ If you surf MySpace, you can find scenes of binge drinking, apparent drug use, and teens posing in little to no clothing. Teens list not only their names and addresses, but even cell phone numbers and after school schedules. This is also an easy outlet for rumors to begin and spread rapidly.

~Facebook is similar to MySpace in the idea that teens can talk to one another via the internet. So far, Facebook seems to not have as much internet hacking going on with individual webpages. Facebook does not appear to have the negative and inappropriate spreading of advertisements that MySpace does.

~BOTH Facebook and MySpace can be marked PRIVATE. This means that the only people who can view the webpage have to be “invited” in to see it. This allows teens to limit who views the information they post, and keeps out unwanted viewers.

~YouTube is a video sharing website where users can upload, view, and share video clips.

~Again, this is not always a bad thing. However, anything that has been caught on a video camera can be put on YouTube and then viewed by anyone.

(For example: The video students created last year, *Teacher Idol*, could be placed on YouTube for viewing by anyone in the world. Could be good for some...could be bad for others...)

~This is also another outlet that demonstrates to teens how to do certain risky behaviors.

~ Some videos on YouTube are not appropriate for teens (or anyone) to view. These are usually the ones most commonly viewed and spread among teens.

~YouTube videos are often placed on MySpace accounts for their “friends” to view. The problem arises when some “friends” or parents may not want their teen portrayed on the web for all to see.