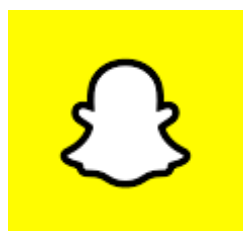# SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE
A RESOURCE FOR PARENTS

Know the vulnerabilities to online grooming

INSTAGRAM

- A picture-based social media app
- You can Direct Message anyone without regulation, even if they have a private account
- Some kids have a "finsta" (a fake Instagram account) and give their parents their other account and secretly maintain their fake "finsta" account

SNAPCHAT

- A photo based social media app where sent pictures disappear after a set amount of seconds once opened
- The "Discover" feature can expose youth to pornographic images
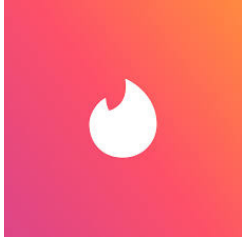- If enabled, SnapMap allows all friends on Snapchat to see your exact location

TIKTOK

- A video-based social media app where users do challenges and dances
- Automatically set to a public account by default, which allows anyone to find the account
- Has a direct message feature, but can only be used if users are mutual friends
- Listed on National Center for Sexual Exploitations 2020 Dirty Dozen for facilitating trafficking behaviors

KIK

- A messaging app
- Used through wifi, meaning you can access it on more devices than just a phone and it is more accessible to younger kids
- Harder for law enforcement to track because it utilizes wifi and people can set up fake accounts

TINDER

- A dating app with a reputation of being a hookup site
- Uses your location to find other users near you; if you open this up in your house then someone has your location
- It is based on a mutual selection process--users only get matched if they are both interested
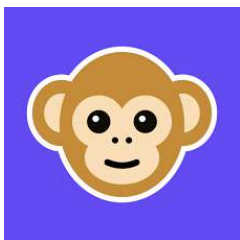
GRINDR

- A dating app marketed for the LGBTQ+ community
- Similar to Tinder, it uses location based technology to find matches
- Many people have been cat-fished or harassed through Grindr because it allows users to link social media accounts without confirming them as their own

WHISPER

- A social media app used to post secrets or confessions; people use this app as a space to vent anonymously
- If they feel like they cannot talk to anyone or they don't have a safe haven, users resort to this app
- There are no profiles, friends, or followers, but you can like and comment on whispers, and direct message other users

HI MONKEY

- A video-chat based social media app
- Allows users to video chat for 10 seconds using SnapChat usernames
- Software matches users based on common interests
- There are concerns about the safety and regulation of inappropriate behavior of this app; similar apps have been removed from app stores for being deemed innappropriate

FACEBOOK

- A social media app created to build community among family and friends
- Has a connected app, Facebook Messenger, which users can use without having a Facebook account
- In 2018, Facebook reported 16.8 million instances of child sexual exploitation and abuse on its platform

TWITTER

- A microblogging social media app
- Has a direct messaging feature
- Listed on National Center for Sexual Exploitations 2020 Dirty Dozen for facilitating trafficking behaviors
- Can be used to post advertisements for prostituted persons and sex trafficking victims

OMEGLE

- An anonymous chat site that allows people to talk to strangers and disconnect at any time
- Has a chat and video feature
- Recently investigated in 2020 by Western Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force and showed that some children voluntarily shared personal info

EMERALD CHATS

- An anonymous chat and video website that presents itself as the new Omegle that has a gender filter
- There have been abductions related to this site; the perpetrator targeted young girls in the Triad area of NC
- This site is used by traffickers to gain trust with a minor and groom them

YOLO

- An anonymous chat option that works very well with Snapchat where you can ask anonymous questions and answer them
- Works with people who are you friends with on Snapchat, even if you do not know them
- A stranger could talk to you and potentially see your location via the SnapMap, if enabled

DISCORD

- A chat room specifically made for gamers
- Users communicate with voice calls, video calls, text messaging, media, and files in private chats or as part of communities called "servers"
- There have been numerous reports of boys being lured and either forced into commercial sex or other types of trafficking