

"Jim Heynderickx" <Heynderickxj@oes.edu> on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 10:33 AM -0500 wrote: Thanks for your request-- you have my permission to repost the information. I'll visit your site a bit later on to see what other materials you have collected.

A posting from Oregon Episcopal School

We just completed our revised recommendations for online profile page use by upper school students. The Cybernotes Newsletter (which was emailed to all US parents) is now available for downloading at http://www.oes.edu/technology/CyberNotes_Jan_4_2006.pdf

It was interesting to revise it for upper school- some recommendations had to become less direct, and some of the language for upper school students had to be revised. We also added a paragraph about Facebook.com, given the number of our students that have signed onto its high school area already.

I also did a presentation to 9th grade parents this morning about this information, but I bracketed the recommendations with two sets of information. First, we recently completed an online survey of upper school students about computer use. We had 153 responses (just over half of the student body). From this survey, we learned that

- * 89% of our US students have more than one email address
- * 78% have one or more IM accounts
- * 48% have an online profile page (Myspace.com, Facebook.com, Yahoo or others)
- * Of those with online profile pages, 48% check them daily or 2-3 times a week
- * 25% bring a laptop to school daily
- * 51% bring a laptop to school at least occasionally (as for finals)
- * 65% have a laptop at home they could bring to school
- * Communication was by far the most popular use of computers.

- * "Second Place" for favorite use was tied between Researching and Music/Video
- * Games had the highest negative score in terms of favored uses.
- * Best experiences: staying in contact with friends, IM, making movies, music and email
- * Worst experiences: losing papers, failed hard drives, things not working, printing

I used this information to support the "advice in motion" concept-the idea that all these things are happening to one extent or another, and we're not discussing issues that relate to only a minority of students.

Secondly, I discussed Facebook.com, which is reported to have 9 million college students registered (up to 85% of students at some institutions). I noted that even 1 percent of 9 million is 90,000 users, meaning that if even 1 percent of the users "misuse" the system (inappropriate information, pictures, clubs, etc.), that would be 90,000 users displaying "bad examples" even if 99 percent of users had positive, useful sites. I also noted that parents with students who went to college last year reported that their kids had "immediate access" to information about their dorm mates, class mates, etc. For some college students, Facebook.com is become "everything"-address book, calendar, photo album, messaging system, etc.

I found it useful to bracket our recommendations for online safety and involvement with students to show that this is a "street smarts" issue. As one parent noted this morning, "This is like our parents who worried about us going to the mall. There are bad people at the mall as well, but we prepare our kids to deal with the risks." Not a bad comment.

Thanks!

Jim Heynderickx

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