

# PROFESSIONALISM in a

# Digital World

## Starting the Conversation...

### Top 10 Tips for Teachers:

- 1 As a digital citizen, model the behaviour you expect to see online from your students.
- 2 Operate online as a professional – the same way you would in the community.
- 3 Ensure that your privacy settings on your own social media sites are maximized.
- 4 Be aware of your employer's policies and programs regarding the use of social media, electronic communications and the appropriate use of electronic equipment.
- 5 Maintain professional boundaries by:
  - Communicating at appropriate times of the day.
  - Using school-approved platforms or a school email account.
  - Avoiding the exchange of personal information with students.
- 6 Respect the privacy of student information and obtain consent before posting any student work or photos online.
- 7 When using the web or social media with students, use the same professional standards you would use in the classroom.
- 8 Consider whether any content posted, shared or liked online may reflect poorly on you, your school or the teaching profession.
- 9 Do not criticize students, colleagues, your employer or others within the school community in any online forum.
- 10 Rely on your professional judgement as guided by the STF's Code of Professional Ethics and Standards of Practice.

Adapted from Ontario College of Teachers, *Professional Advisory: Maintaining Professionalism – Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media*. September 2017

[www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/use-of-electronic-communication-and-social-media](http://www.oct.ca/resources/advisories/use-of-electronic-communication-and-social-media)

ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU POST...

- ✓ Would I communicate this way in the community?
- ✓ Are my reasons for sharing this information with a student professional or personal?
- ✓ Is this photo or comment something I would be comfortable with my students, their parents or the media seeing?
- ✓ How does my online presence reflect my professionalism?



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