

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL USE

The community expects that educators & staff members to be keenly aware that their actions reflect on the profession and the schools they represent. They also expect DCS employees to demonstrate the highest level of professional judgment. We hope you use this helpful guide in making responsible decisions on social media.

SET YOUR LEVEL OF PRIVACY:

What information about you can people access online? Make sure your social media settings aren't left wide open, and make sure to consider your audience when tagging someone in a post or using a hashtag both of those actions will make a post more visible.

KNOW COPYRIGHT LAWS:

The laws are more relaxed surrounding education, but not on social media. Credit your sources or use public material!

DON'T USE THE INTERNET TO VENT:

Again, nothing online is private. If you have a negative opinion, keep it off the internet, because it will definitely be seen by someone who you wouldn't want to see it.

NETWORK WITH PEERS:

Social media can be a great tool to connect with other professionals and educational groups.

REMEMBER WHAT ACCOUNT YOU'RE USING:

Always make sure you keep your audience in mind when posting on social media, and know that nothing is ever totally private! And NEVER use direct messaging to communicate with a student.

REMEMBER THE ALABAMA CODE OF ETHICS:

Per the Alabama Educator Code of Ethics, unethical conduct is any conduct that impairs the certificate holder's ability to function in his or her employment position or a pattern of behavior that is detrimental to the health, welfare, discipline, or morals of students.

FACT CHECK YOUR POSTS:

Don't post dubious information, and don't try to communicate anonymously. It never has positive results.

Find out more about Dothan City Schools' Social Media Policy and guidelines, go to dothan.k12.al.us/publicinformation

Be Smart About Posting Online! In the end, just thinking things through will help you avoid a lot of trouble. Don't be afraid to post with personality, just remember who could see it.

