

**Wasatch Peak Academy**  
**Policy: Social Networking Policy**  
**Adopted: November 10, 2011**



**Purpose**

The Wasatch Peak Academy (the "School") recognizes both the educational value and dangers of social networking sites. To protect School personnel, students, parents, and School resources, the School requires all educators who access social networking sites to abide by the provisions of this policy.

**Definitions**

For purposes of this policy, "social networking site" means a social networking site, personal web site, blog or other Internet location that can be edited by an individual with the correct username and password.

**Instructional Use**

Social networking sites accessed at School or using School resources may only be used for for instructional purposes directly related to the educator's curriculum.

Prior to creating or using a social networking site for instructional purposes, an educator must obtain written consent from the School principal. The consent must include the purpose of the access, the names of students permitted to access the site, and the anticipated duration of the instructional activity. The Principal may withdraw consent at any time.

An instructional use social networking site shall comply with all School policies, including the student Code of Conduct. Profane, obscene, defamatory or otherwise inappropriate comments are not permitted.

Educator social networking site postings may not violate any state or federal laws. Accordingly, educators must comply with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and may not post student photos or personally identifiable information without prior written parental consent.

Educators are responsible for ensuring that student posts that violate laws or School policies are removed immediately and that students are referred to the Principal for appropriate disciplinary action. Educators are responsible for all content on the educator's social networking site, including posts by students.

Access to instructional social networking sites must be limited to those students whose parent or legal guardian has given written permission for the student to participate on and use the social networking site. School administrators must be granted access to the social networking site and shall monitor the site for compliance with this policy.

Excluding school sponsored social networking sites, educators must include a disclaimer on their social networking site, or in the parent permission form, noting that the content, views, or opinions expressed on the social networking site do not represent the School and that the educator is solely responsible for any opinions, views, or content on the social networking site.

**Personal Use**

School employees shall not solicit students as friends or accept students as friends on their personal social networking sites or invite or encourage students to read or access their personal social networking sites.

School employees may only access personal social networking sites using school resources during their lunch breaks or otherwise in accordance with applicable School policies.

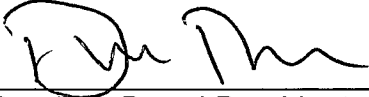
School employees may face disciplinary action for posts on their personal social networking sites that violate School policies or state rules regarding professional conduct and create a disruption in the school or interfere with the employee's ability to serve effectively at the School.

School employees may not use School logos, mascots, symbols, or trademarks for commercial gain on their personal social networking sites.

School employees who use School resources to create, maintain, or post to personal social networking sites or the pages of others have no expectation of privacy, and their activities may be subject to review by administrators.

School employees who violate this policy will be subject to discipline.

Signature:

  
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Dan Rip, Board President

11/10/11  
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Date