Safe Social Networking

Internet-based social networking websites are increasing in popularity among students looking for an easy-to-use facility in which they can publish and share their thoughts, interests, photos, bookmarks, files, and so on with other like-minded students. Unfortunately, as with many unmonitored Internet-based tools, there are documented safety issues associated with students using these sites, including: little or no security around who can access these systems; students feeling a false sense of anonymity and unwittingly revealing their identity to potential predators; and incidents of cyber-bullying with little or no protection available.

FIRSTCLASS SOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

The FirstClass Collaboration Suite has been successfully providing powerful social networking tools to learning organizations for over a decade in a safe and secure fashion. The social networking facilities of FirstClass that your students can use to safely collaborate with each other include:

- **FirstClass Conferences** – general purpose shared spaces for group collaboration on a wide array of topics including clubs, sports, facilities, student government, and so on.
- **FirstClass Workspaces** – student project areas where smaller groups of students can collaborate together on specific topics by sharing a broad range of electronic resources.
- **FirstClass Instant Messaging** – a powerful online peer communication tool for sharing thoughts, graphics, files, and even voice communications.
- **FirstClass Blogging and Podcasting** – students can publish personal or topic-based blogs as well as easily create podcasts, all from within FirstClass.

FirstClass is the foundation for dynamic yet safe electronic social networking environments, offering a proven way to:

- **Safeguard students from predators** – The foundation for safe social networking comes from the fact that a FirstClass environment is a closed, managed community that is controlled by your system administrator. Because there are no unauthorized users, undesirables such as adult predators cannot access the system.
- **Keep students accountable** – With FirstClass, there are no anonymous users. All content within the system is linked to the user who originally published it.
- **Manage collaboration practically** – Since FirstClass was designed for education organizations, it integrates into a single solution all the facilities and tools that schools need to manage successful online communities.

Schools can roll out thousands of collaborative spaces at the classroom, school, and school district/campus level with relative ease, ensuring only the people with granted permissions have access to each collaborative space.

FIRSTCLASS®
The way to connect.

CUSTOMER PROFILE: CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The sixth largest school district in the United States, Clark County School District has been using FirstClass for over a decade. They branded their FirstClass system "InterAct", representing its mission to enable the district's teaching and learning community to interact with each other electronically. Initially, the system focused on teachers only. In recent years, however, they have extended the use of FirstClass and approximately 25,000 students are now networking on InterAct.

Students have access to a wide range of electronic spaces on InterAct for clubs, sports organizations, school activities, and community discussions. Although Clark County is a very large district geographically, FirstClass enables like-minded students at distant corners of the district to come together electronically to discuss common interests and share resources.

> "FirstClass has provided a safe and secure environment for our students to collaborate on an incredibly wide range of topics through FirstClass. We've been able to avoid the kind of issues that we read about almost daily related to students using public social networking, and that gives us a great peace of mind."
>
> - Karlene Lee
> Associate Superintendent
> Clark County School District

CUSTOMER PROFILE: EMORY UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA, GA

Founded in 1836, Emory University specializes in a wide array of undergraduate and graduate areas of study including arts and science, medicine, nursing, theology, law, and business. Today, Emory has over 11,000 students and 2,500 faculty members.

Emory decided to take advantage of the widespread availability of computers within their student and faculty population by creating an online community that would enable their academic stakeholders to collaborate on a wide range of curricular and co-curricular topics. This electronic community, built on FirstClass, is known as "LearnLink". LearnLink now encompasses over 30,000 distinct shared knowledge bases, covering topics such as online courses, faculty moderated discussions, fraternities and sororities, sports clubs, social clubs, religious organizations and other important campus presences.

> "LearnLink has become an essential part of the student environment here at Emory. It enables our academic community to collaborate and share knowledge on such a wide range of topics. We even provide access to new students before they arrive on campus so they can get a head start at learning about the history, culture, facilities, and spirit of Emory before even setting foot on campus."
>
> - Alan Cattier
> Director of Academic Technologies
> Emory University