



# School officials dig into social media

## Staff editorial

Millions of high school students all around the world have extensive social media networks such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These are the places they go to share

their feelings, spread gossip, and just simply be teenagers.

Students have disagreed for years that school officials have the right to monitor their posts on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media. Some officials may agree with this, but many might disagree.

These officials should only have a right to monitor if there are extreme cases of bullying, suicide attempts, violence, or other related issues on these subjects.

Recently, representatives from four northeast Indiana school districts attended a meeting about the monitoring of students' social media networks. An agreement was settled upon, and key words were created. These words are all words that could be linked to violence, suicide, and bullying. If the computer picks up on one of these words from a student's profile, an

alert will immediately be sent to school administrators to decide how to take on the possible issue.

Parents of students may think that it's necessary for their child's profile to be monitored, which is understandable because they are just trying to protect their children and do what is best for their safety. They can do that on their own terms. Parents should not have to rely on the school.

If students decide to post ignorant and immature things on their profiles, then that is their own choice and responsibility. School officials shouldn't have to get involved in petty high school drama. Students are going to be foolish about what they post, but that's just reality.

We believe that if students have a problem with the school getting into their private social media lives, they need to protect that on their own. Students need to put their profiles on private if they don't want anyone other than their family and friends to see what they post.

Overall, school officials don't need to dig deep into the private lives of their students. We are just teenagers growing up in a generation of technology. Just let us be.