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There is no doubt social media is a part of our everyday lives. From our phones to Netflix to laptops, we are plugged in. It is no surprise social media is starting to make an appearance in the classroom as well.

Twitter in the classroom is a recent teaching tool that some teachers are using. According to an article on TeachHub, teachers can use Twitter to do things such as tweet upcoming assignments, coordinate assignments, follow issues in the news, ask questions, take and share notes. Teachers can also use the hashtag system by assigning courses specific but simple hashtags such as #generalbio02.

The Huffington Post recommends teachers participate in training on how to use Twitter before using it in the classroom. Since certain teachers will use it in different ways, it is important the teachers are able to explain and show what they expect from the students. Things such as who students should tweet at and what hashtags to use should be covered.

However, some people have hesitated before accepting this because Twitter is social media. Twitter requires internet access which means that students would need to have the app themselves. If a student didn't have a smartphone it could be difficult for students to be as connected as his or her peers. Twitter could also be distracting to students. What age would it be appropriate to start using Twitter in the classroom?

Former Bearcat Dakota Phillips teaches students in the fourth grade. She thinks Twitter in the classroom can be helpful but should not be used until students are older.

Phillips thinks Twitter could be too distracting and possibly confusing to younger students. She thinks students in the fifth or sixth grade could be introduced to Twitter in the classroom and then use it more and as they get older. Phillips believes that Twitter could have many educational benefits to older students.

"I think Twitter can be a good teaching tool because kids of all ages love social media and being on their cell phones so the idea of using Twitter in the classroom will

Commented [1]: Really really good work! I think this might be your best yet. Great job.

Commented [2]: _Marked as resolved_

Commented [3]: _Re-opened_
thank you!

immediately engage students and excite them," Phillips said.

Phillips has seen many ideas on the internet showing teachers like herself how to use Twitter in the classroom. Things such as tweeting about upcoming assignments and deadlines, following current issues and creating a stream of questions for discussions are a few ideas Phillips thinks could be useful.

"It's important to keep up with technology changes and advances," Phillips said. "It will keep students up to date on current technology and allow them to use it to their advantage in the classroom."

The presence of social media will continue to be intertwined into many aspects of our lives. It is important to understand and learn how to use it. It will be interesting to see how social media continues to impact the education system and other aspects of life.