



WEEK 5: How to Cultivate Community and Connectedness Using Social Media

Kristen Doverspike





About Kristen

- With Finals site since Dec. 2019
- 5+ years in digital marketing
- Background in content strategy, social media, and inbound strategy
- Mom of a mini aussiedoodle puppy named Caesar

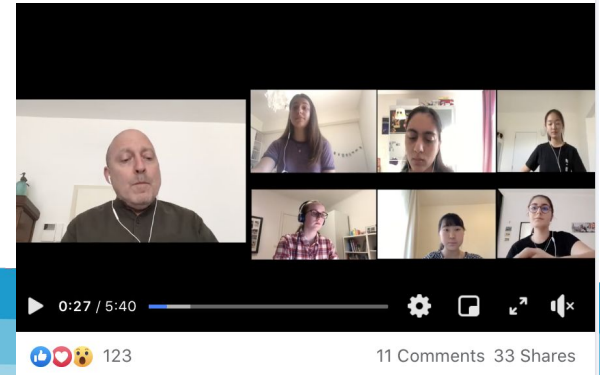


The key to your community: Emotional Intelligence

- ▶ Students are feeling disconnected
- ▶ Parents and faculty are worried
- ▶ Prospective families feel uneasy or unsure
- ▶ Alumni may feel disconnected



👍❤️ 12



“What do you feel has been the **biggest barrier** to meeting your social media goals so far?”



Added by you
Not enough time



50 votes



Added by you
Not getting enough engagement



22 votes



Added by you
Not knowing what to post



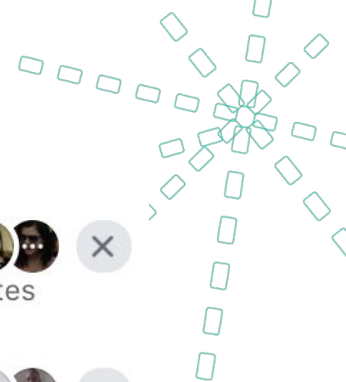
11 votes



Added by you
Wanting to advertise, but not having the budget



2 votes



Connecting your community
**when you have limited
time and resources**



Step 1:

Think about who you want to reach, and where they are

STUDENTS

Instagram
TikTok

PARENTS

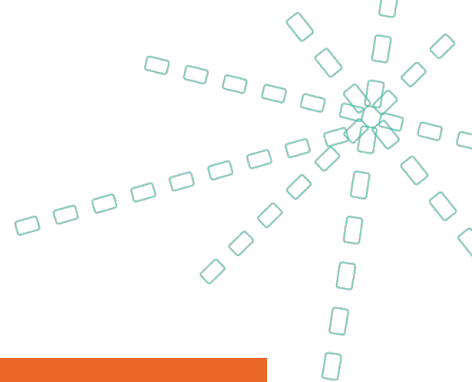
Facebook +
Groups
Instagram
Twitter

FACULTY

Facebook
Group

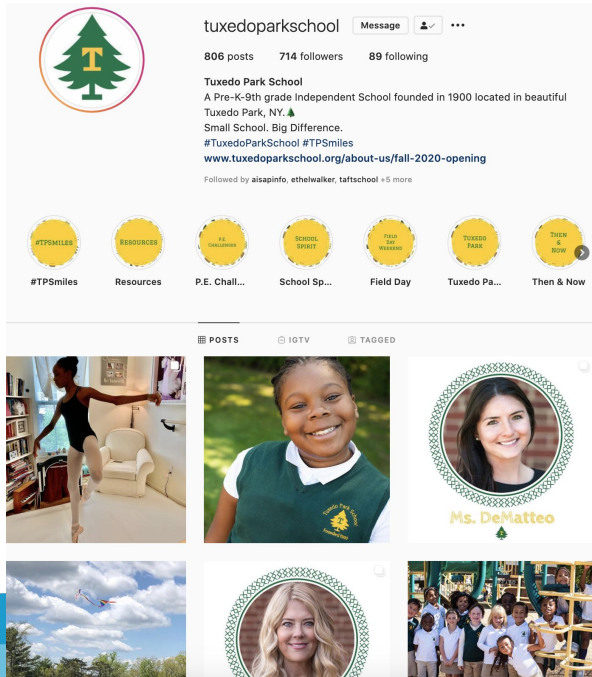
ALUMNI

Facebook
Group
Instagram



Step 2:

You don't have to post as much as you think



TIMING

1-2 times per day on Facebook

1-2 times per day on Instagram

5+ times per day on Twitter

Defer to "Stories" for more

Step 3:


When in doubt, turn to resources you already have

- ▶ **Pull “snippets”** from content you already have to use across different channels.
- ▶ **Crowdsource** by reaching out to members of your community to send in photos through a specific email address, or set up a branded hashtag.
- ▶ **Remember it doesn’t have to look professional.** While you definitely want to save your higher-quality photos for platforms like Instagram, we naturally resonate and are forgiving with candid content. The more human, the better.
- ▶ **Throwbacks are OK (and great)!**



Step 4:

Set aside time for your calendar



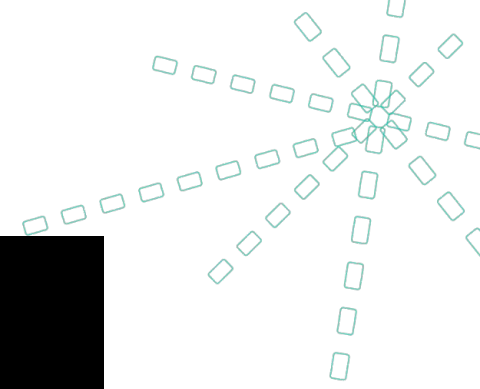
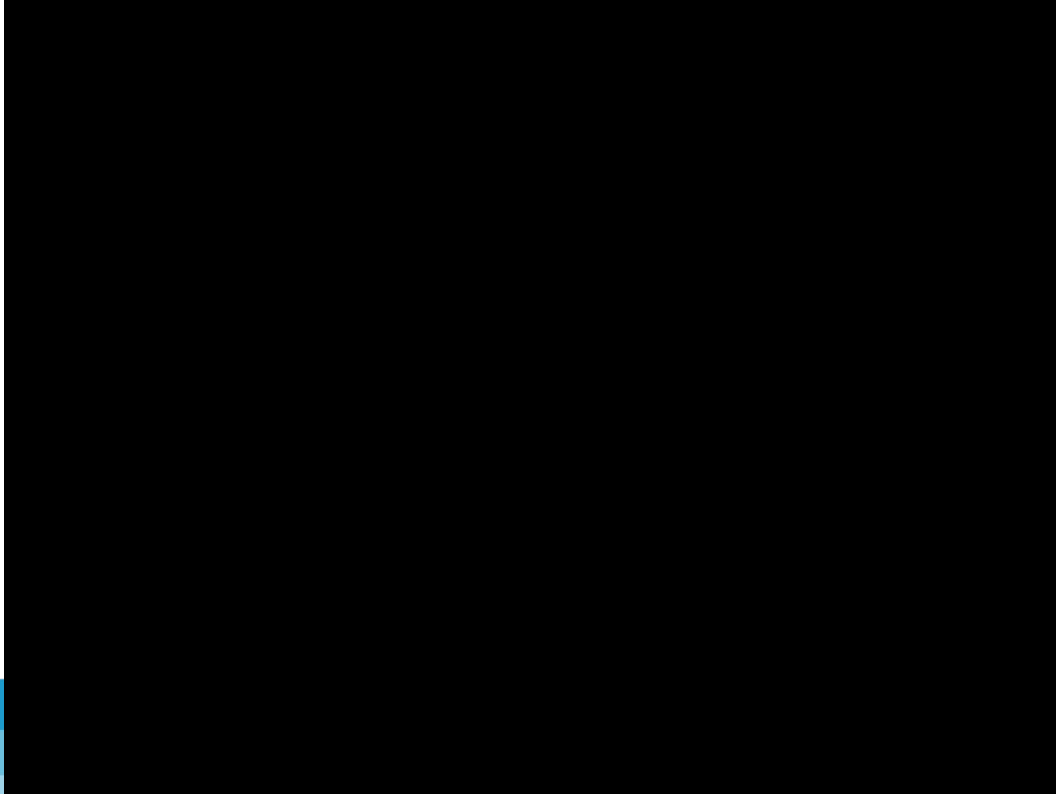
CHANNEL	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Instagram	User-generated content	Tip Tuesday	Instagram Live: Q&A	School spirit photo / video Or Throwback	Faculty or student profile	Virtual event promotion for next week	User-generated content
Facebook	Live: Weekly announcements	Club/Extra-curricular highlight	Post helpful blog	Throwback	Virtual event promotion for next week	Faculty or student profile	Re-share content from other local leaders



Step 5:

Take advantage of free tools

► [Later.com](#)



Step 5:

Take advantage of free tools



► Canva.com

The screenshot shows the Canva.com homepage. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the Canva logo, links for Home, Templates, Discover, and Learn, and a 'Create a design' button. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a large yellow banner with the text 'Design anything.' and a search bar. To the left of the banner is a sidebar with a 'Recommended for you' section and a list of design categories. Below the banner, there's a row of design templates with labels like 'Instagram Post', 'Email Header', 'Infographic', etc.

Canva.com

Home Templates Discover Learn

Create a design FM

Recommended for you

- All your designs
- Brand Kit
- All your folders
- Trash
- Finalsite Marketing's team
- Uploads
- Headshots
- Graphic Brand Element
- Facebook Backgrounds
- Social Templates
- Facebook Templates

Design anything.

Search designs, templates, and more

"Every great design begins with an even better story." —Lorinda Mamo

Recommended Social Media Events Marketing Documents Prints Video School Personal Custom dimensions

- Instagram Post
- Email Header
- Infographic
- Animated Social Media
- Video
- Presentation
- Desktop



Connecting your community through engaging content



Two main categories of social media posts:

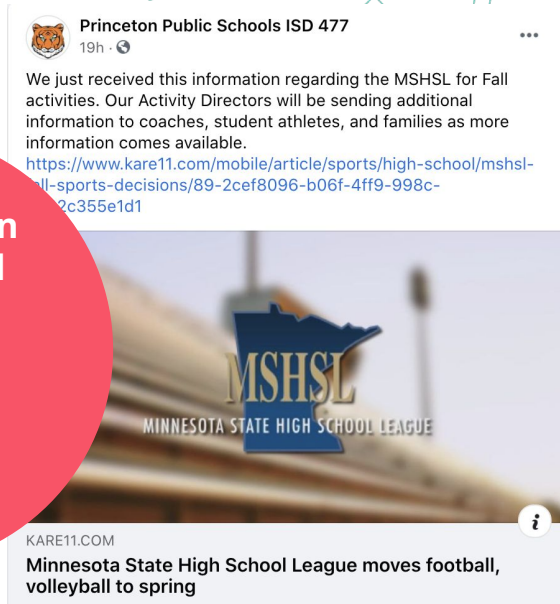
For Engagement:

- ▶ User-generated content
- ▶ Throwbacks
- ▶ Student/faculty highlights
- ▶ Campus photos
- ▶ National Days



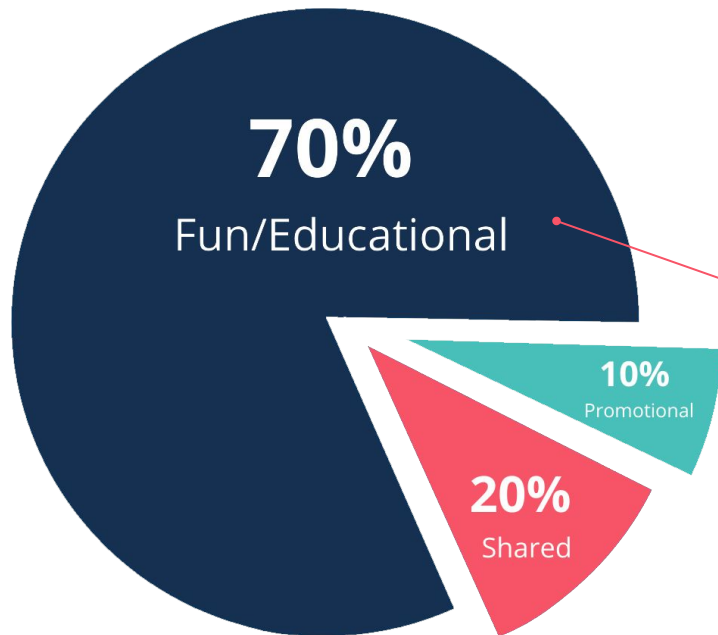
For Information or promotional content:

- ▶ News
- ▶ Announcements
- ▶ Upcoming Events
- ▶ Admissions content



Step 1:

Use the 70/20/10 Rule



70% of your content can (and should) be engaging, non-promotional posts.



Step 2:

Create a Sense of Community

- ▶ Always respond to comments (both good and bad!)
- ▶ Maintain a consistent posting cadence
- ▶ Create a Facebook Group
- ▶ Showcase your students and faculty
- ▶ Go Live
- ▶ Don't just cancel events, make them virtual when possible

Lawrence School
April 30 · 🌐

~ ~ THIS ONE'S DEDICATED TO ALL THE HEROES ~ ~ When our High School Choir began rehearsing this song months ago, we never imagined the world we'd find ourselves in today. Through distance learning, they've continued online rehearsals and recorded their individual parts from home. We're so proud and hope you enjoy their virtual performance.



115 16 Comments 21 Shares

Like Comment Share

Most Relevant

Write a comment...

Heather Weyls
I cry every time I listen...which is about 4 times each hour!! These kids sound amazing and having a senior, this is even more special to me! Thank you, Lawrence!

Like · Reply · 13w

Lawrence School
We are so lucky to have such an amazing student body, including your wonderful daughter! Great things are in store for the Class of 2020! **#seniorstrong**

Like · Reply · 13w

The Post Oak School
July 27 at 9:03 AM · 🌐

Please help us give a warm welcome to our new Upper Elementary guide Fanita Spears-Mogro! Fanita joins us from Alief Montessori Community School and has 16 years of teaching experience. Meet Fanita at bit.ly/3tWzPZ1

Fun fact: Fanita is an avid fan of bullet journaling, an experimental baker, aspiring singer and gardener, and she also dabbles in art projects, such as paper collage and rock painting! **#MeetPostOak**
[REPOST: Our apologies for misspelling Fanita Spears-Mogro's n... See More]



Step 3:

Use video when possible

- ▶ You don't necessarily need a large (or any) budget
- ▶ Most social channels give top priority to video content
- ▶ More than 50% of users prefer video content over all other forms of content
- ▶ Your community is spending more time online than ever before, and consuming more video than ever before



stuartcdschool • Following ...

stuartcdschool Oh the places they will go! ❤️

As we continue to honor the Class of 2020, here's a look at the schools they are attending in the fall! Thanks to Heather Kwafo for her creativity in producing the college matriculation video! #stuartproud #stuartcountrydayschool #classof2020 #covidgraduation

8w



531 views

JUNE 8

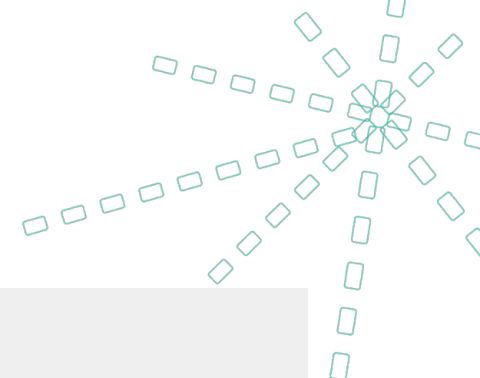
Add a comment...

85% of social videos are watched **without sound**, so always enable captions!



Step 3:

Use video when possible



LIVE VIDEO

- ▶ Can go directly on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or Twitter
- ▶ Great for events, QA, morning announcements, etc.
- ▶ Often longer in length

PRE-RECORDED VIDEO

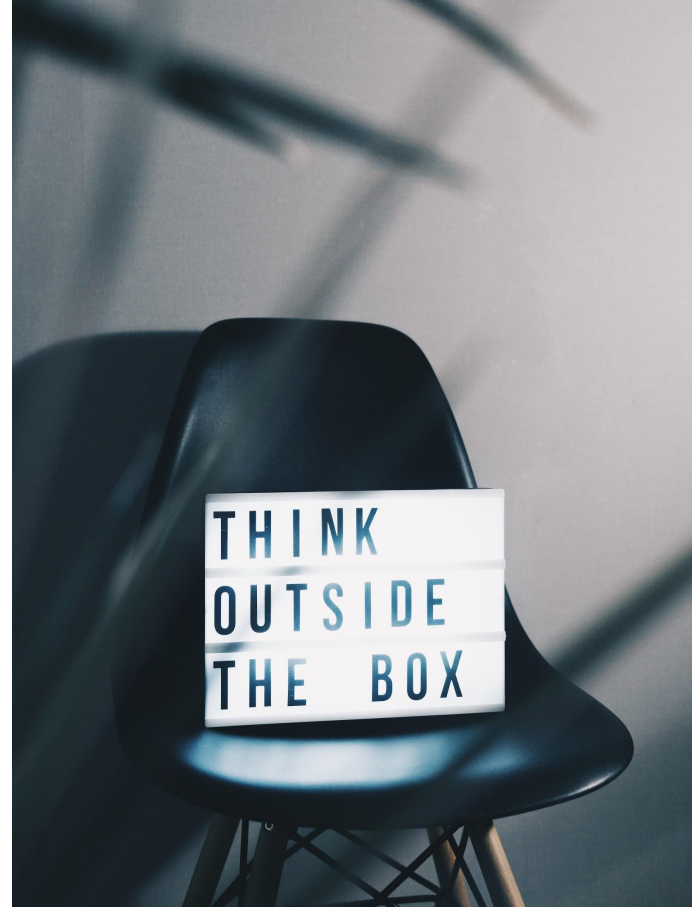
- ▶ A recording of an event, virtual tour, or story that's then posted to your social channels
- ▶ Doesn't need to be professional quality
- ▶ Often shorter in length

BOTH

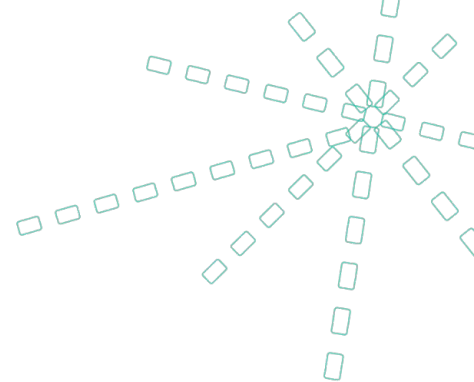
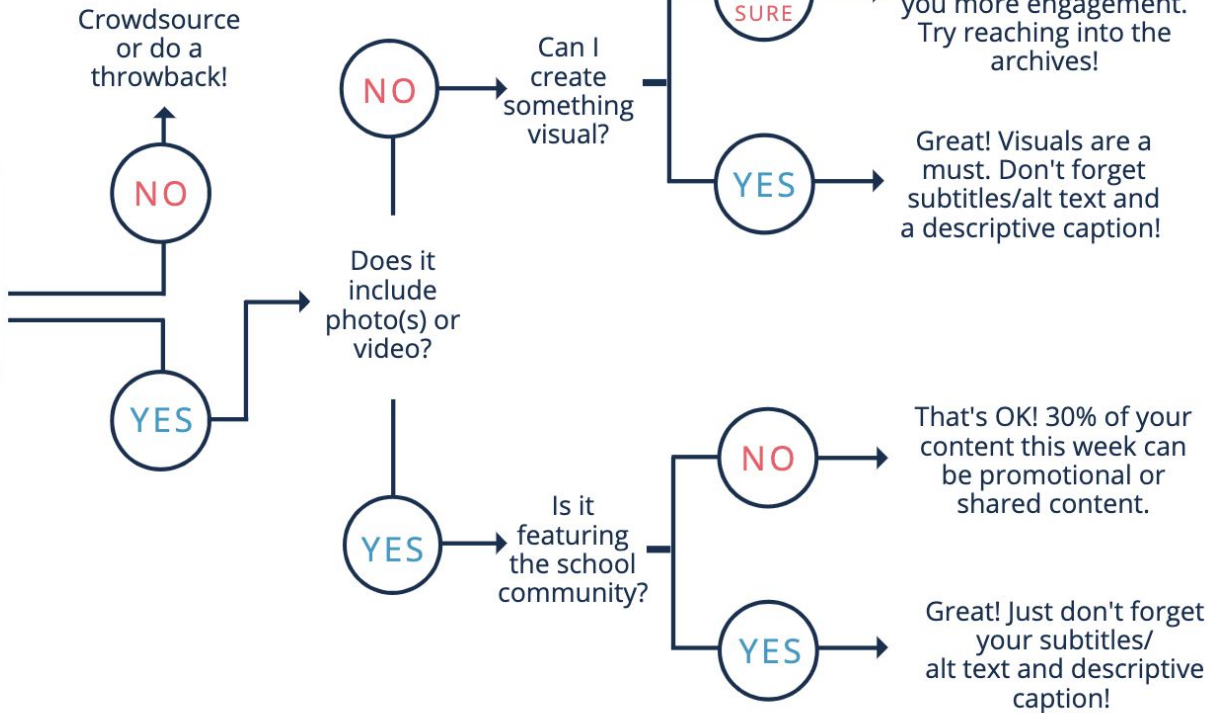
- ▶ Essential for engaging and informing your community
- ▶ Great tools for **email, social media, and your website**
- ▶ Humanize your school or district




Connecting your community
**when you don't know what
to post**



**DO I
HAVE
CONTENT
TO
SHARE?**





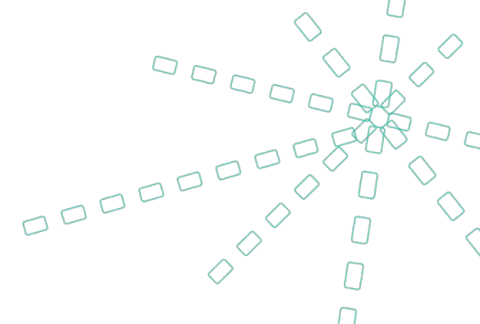
Type of content	Relevant next week?	Relevant next year?	How to make it evergreen
Event Promo for next week	✓	✗	Use photos/video from the event for throwbacks or for a promo for the next event
Student/faculty highlight	✓	✗	Collage together to look back on exemplary students and teachers from the past
Blog about parenting	✓	✓	Reshare when relevant; try to offer a new take on it
Live stream of morning announcements	✗	✗	Save footage for b-roll; upload to YouTube as an archive




Expanding your community
**when you don't have a
large budget**



Try boosting content that you already know works!



- ▶ Dip your toes in the advertising waters
- ▶ Great for brand awareness and top of the funnel content (blogs, “about” your school, etc.)
- ▶ Is limiting from a targeting standpoint



Reach More People With This Post

You could reach up to 908 people daily by boosting your post for \$10.

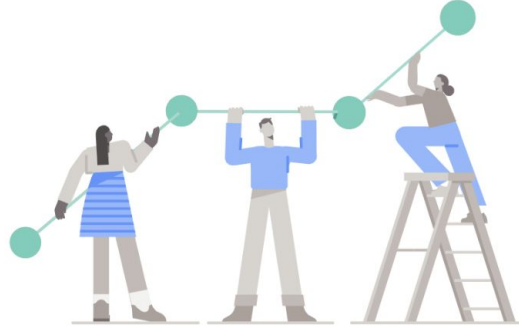
×

124 People Reached	7 Engagements	Boost Post
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Use the Facebook Pixel

- ▶ Collect real data about those who are interacting with your website
- ▶ Improve conversion rates
- ▶ Reach more relevant audiences in your community



Connect a Data Source to Get Started

By connecting a data source you can send information from any place where your customers interact with your business. This information can then be used to create audiences and run ad campaigns.

[Connect a Data Source](#)





Questions?

Post in the Summer Camp Facebook Group
& Bring to the Live Networking Sessions!

Thursday, 13 August

9AM | 12PM | 9PM EDT (NYC TIME)

