Grass Lake PTA's Media Cheat Sheet for Parents

Media	Age	What it is	Common Concerns	Privacy Settings	Parental Controls
Minecraft	8+	open ended "sandbox" adventure video game, user creates world	mild violence, online community (chatting)	play in a "realm" of 10 trusted players or vetted kid server with moderator	hide chat window to avoid contact with strangers
Fortnite	13+	open ended "sandbox" action video game	shooting violence, online community (chatting), microtransactions $$	option to limit user name visibility	6-digit pin for parental controls, weekly playtime reports, filters, disable audio and text chatting
Discord	13+	real-time text / audio / video messaging app (like Skype meets Reddit)	online community (potential contact with strangers via direct message)	can join private vs. public servers created by users, "safe direct messaging" option to filter mature content	none
Roblox	13+	gaming platform to create, share, & play user-generated games	subscription spending, online dating users	chat is filtered, privacy setting page to control level of contact for the account	parent can add email to account with pin to control contact settings
Jackbox	12+	compilation of party games for group play	mature topics, inappropriate marketing	only players with access code can join game session	filters, short game durations make convenient stop points
Among Us	10+	social deduction action-strategy video game	cyberbullying, microtransactions $$	public or private games, 4-10 known players access game with code	option to sensor chat (asterisks cover profanities)
Apple Arcade	-	ad-free family friendly subscription gaming service	subscription costs, cannot use on android devices	can use iOS 'Family Sharing' feature to add 6 members	none, but using iOS Screen Time feature parent can disable game downloads
Tik Tok	15+	watch, create, and share user-generated videos	mature content, privacy and security issues with China's government surveillance	private mode, friends mode, can restrict contact with strangers	time limits, filters, disable direct messaging
Twitch	15+	livestream platform for gaming & other topics (watch others play live)	mature content, advertisements, violence, online community (chatting)	hide chat (cannot block), discrimination and swearing filter options for chat	none
Instagram	15+	social media app for sharing photos and videos, messaging	mature content, contact with strangers, social comparison anxiety	public account by default, can switch to private account	comment controls, 're-sharing' controls, feed posting controls, unable to lock these settings
YouTube Kids	7+	video app featuring curated ad-supported and user-generated content	advertisements, risk of disturbing fake videos	create up to 8 kid profiles customized for each child, algorithm tracks activity	timer, disable search, select trusted / recommended channels in grown-ups only section
Messenger Kids	13+	Facebook social media app aimed at kids 6-12 years of age	sharing photos / video / messages with strangers, social comparison anxiety	little control over security of data and privacy	parent dashboard linked to personal FB account can view all of their child's activity
Snapchat	16+	messaging app geared towards sharing photos	sexting, sharing content with strangers, social comparison anxiety, addictive behavior	disable visible location setting and who can view your story under "who can"	none, no activity history to view or record
Teams	-	live video chat platform with screen share and 'breakout room' function	private chatting	use school account to limit data breaches	educator controls settings
Zoom	-	video chat platform with screen share and 'breakout room' function	data tracking, 'zoombombing' hackers, private chatting	use school account to limit data breaches	can use meeting passwords and wait rooms to grant access, option to disable file transfer

For a full list of common media visit:
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parents-ultimate-guides

For help with setting Parental Controls visit:
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/parents-ultimate-guide-to-parental-controls