



A real family bond

Cast of "Anne Frank" works hard to depict historical Frank family

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#TWEETING THE NUMBERS

- Ⓒ The top 5 most popular Twitter users are Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Kim Kardashian, and Britney Spears.
- Ⓒ As of June 2011, Twitter users are now averaging 200 million tweets per day, as opposed to only 5,000 tweets per day the first year Twitter started, in 2006.
- Ⓒ An average of 460,000 new Twitter accounts are created each day.
- Ⓒ Twitter ranks 9th in the world's most popular sites.

Information provided by marketinggum.com and twittercount.com

compiled by Nicole Huser

CREATING A #following

Twitter serves as new outlet for real-time news and entertainment

Nicole Huser | Staff Writer

Tweeting is no longer just for the birds. As of this year, there are 200 million tweets each day on the Twitter.com, a website that was established in 2006. Not only is Twitter a place for friends to share information between one another, but popular news sources and celebrities have also caught on to the trend--celebrities such as Lady Gaga, who has roughly 16,726,661 followers.

Senior Chase Scheuer, a frequent tweeter, said he believes that Twitter is a more simple and easy to use site than Facebook.

"I think [Twitter] is better, because it's not as self-promoting," Scheuer said. "With Facebook you have pictures on your wall and you're always seeing pictures of people. It's much more cluttered on Facebook, especially now with all the advertisements they have off to the side. Twitter is just more basic; It's a quick and easy way to see what everybody's doing."

According to junior Maggie Etherington, who prefers to use Twitter over Facebook, said that part of the reason why Twitter is becoming so popular is because MHS students want to be a part of the new way to socialize.

"I feel like people are jumping on the bandwagon," Etherington said. "When someone has a Twitter, they want all their friends to follow them, and it's a competition of how many followers you can get and stuff. I think a lot of people want to experience the new technology and get more information from [Twitter]."

Though Facebook is still considered more popular than Twitter, with 31 percent of all Facebook users logging in several times a day compared to 20 percent or Twitter users, Twitter offers things such as direct interaction with celebrities while Facebook does not.

Celebrities have jumped on the bandwagon and have joined Twitter, tweeting quick snippets about what is going on in their personal as well as professional life.

According to Scheuer, Twitter makes it possible to feel closer to celebrity news.

"On Twitter, ...it's actually the stars tweeting and talking to you," Scheuer said. "It seems more legitimate than something you'd find on Facebook."

Junior Maggie Etherington, who believes Twitter is an all-around better website than Facebook, said that learning about celebrity gossip is much easier to do with Twitter.

"[I follow] E! News on Twitter [and] everything that E! has on Twitter is what's on their news that night, so I don't really have to watch [E! News]," Etherington said. "It's a shortcut to what you want to know."

Not only can you follow big name stars, but Twitter can be used as a way to get fast and reliable news, according to Scheuer.

"Sometimes you'll see breaking news if you're following CNN or MSNBC," Scheuer said. "It's a legitimate site because it's the reporters themselves, so they bring the news to you first instead of hearing it through different people on Facebook."

Twitter has proven to be not only a social-media website, but also a way to get information out quicker than through texting or Facebook, which can save lives.

According to The Christian Science Monitor, an international news organization, Twitter allowed officials at Virginia Tech to send a campus lockdown notice to students seven minutes after the shooting of a police officer on campus. This quick way of contacting students stopped the shooting from progressing.

Although Twitter has many pros, it has its downsides just as any social-media site does. There's a rise of Twitter usage amongst gangs, according to the Huffington Post, in order for them to call out a snitch or organize their gang.

The rise of gang use on Twitter may not seem relevant to a suburb such as Mason, but even without such violent acts at MHS, the website still has its downfalls.

According to Scheuer, some people don't realize that tweets may have consequences just as a Facebook status would.

"I think with Twitter you can say whatever you want and not be "judged" because no one can like your status or comment on it," Scheuer said. "So I think people feel they can say more on Twitter than they could on Facebook which isn't true, because you can still get into trouble based on what you post."