Other than the printed materials referenced above in this syllabus, our class will be utilizing a limited number of online learning platforms to enhance our collaboration. Some of these platforms are individualized and limited to our class; other platforms, such as Twitter, can be used to communicate with the outside world. The allure of social media for teens and tweens is profound; as parents/guardians, it is likely that you have already had informative discussions with your child about his/her safety, how to adjust privacy settings, how to unfriend/block negative people, etc. Before we first utilize each tool in the classroom, I will have those same conversations with students. It is absolutely your right as a parent/guardian to say, “I do not want my child using \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; please give him/her an alternate assignment.” Alternate pencil and paper assignments covering the same content will be assigned, and your child’s grade will not be impacted. Below you will find a chart listing some of the possible online platforms we will use, as well as a place for you to indicate the type(s) of involvement you would like for your child to have. **If you are unfamiliar with one of the listed items, please research the tool before signing, or contact me to discuss this further.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Online tool and its instructional use | Yes, my child can use this. | No, I do not want my child to use this. | Signature |
| Edmodo—teachers can post assignments, offer quizzes and games, have students share work with others in class, etc. There is no possibility of private messaging or communicating with others outside our classroom. Edmodo was designed for educational use. |  |  |  |
| Kidblog—students share writing, and send and receive feedback with others in class. There is no possibility of private messaging classmates or others. Kidblog was designed for educational use. |  |  |  |
| Google Community—this is a private, class-only space for students to collaborate on assignments. Students must have a Gmail account, and I invite students to join. Google Communities exist over a wide variety of topics, and can be public or private. My class community is private, and no one besides your child’s peers will be able to see or comment on what is posted. |  |  |  |
| Voxer—this is an instant messaging app where voice messages, along with photos and documents, can be shared with others. While Voxer was not designed exclusively for education, its use as a formative assessment tool is invaluable. Users can connect with others who have a Voxer account. As an administrator of a classroom group chat with a pro account, I can delete inappropriate messages; however if your child “connects” with others outside of our classroom, I cannot access that content. |  |  |  |