



Twitter for Educators

KET Multimedia Professional Development Days
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Amy Grant, Education Consultant, @AmyGrantKET

What is this Twitter thing?

- Twitter in Plain English – www.commoncraft.com/video/twitter
- How teachers use Twitter for their own Professional Growth www.vimeo.com/36647045

How do sign up?

- Create a username that is short and about you, e.g. AmyGrantKET vs AG12345
- Add a photo and a description of yourself, no one wants to follow an egg 😊

Getting Started

- Remember, there's no way to see it all. Don't stick your head under the waterfall – take your cup, get what you need, and move on.
- Websites and Apps – There are many ways to view Twitter! Find what works best for you.
 - Twitter.com
 - Hootsuite.com
 - Tweetdeck.com, etc.
- Search – Search for anything! (You can always search without creating an account.) www.twitter.com



- Trending – on Twitter.com (bottom of the left column) you can see what is 'trending.' That is, you can see what words, phrases, or hashtags are currently being tweeted most around the world.



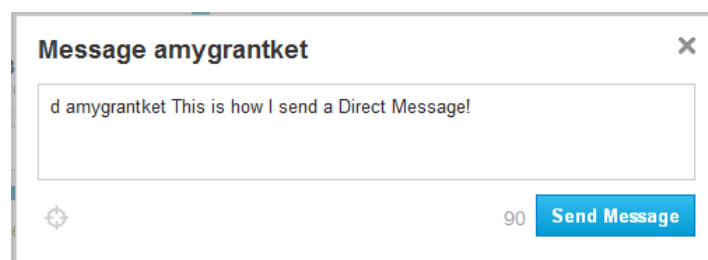
The Basics

- Following –
 - Great list of active Twitter users to follow, categorized by subject area/topic, etc. www.cybraryman.com/plnstars.html
 - Found great users who tweet useful items? They probably follow great people, too! See who they follow, and add those users to your PLN (Personal Learning Network)!
- Followers –

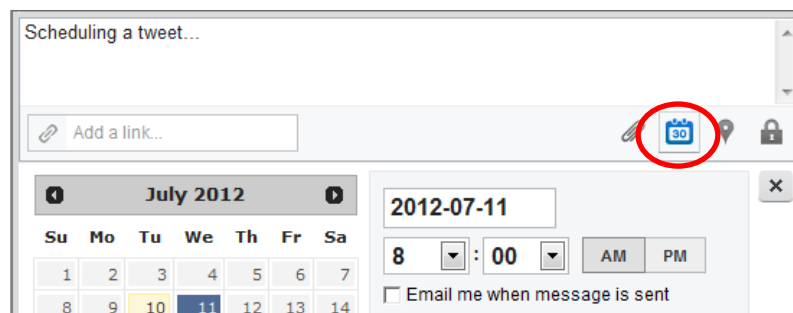
- Not everyone you follow will follow you back.
- **Anatomy of a Tweet** (see attached page also)
 - **Web Links:** Links are often embedded into tweets. 140 characters just isn't enough to say it all! Use a URL shortener (like goo.gl or bit.ly) to shorten web addresses.
 - **Mentions:** Any Twitter update that contains "@username" anywhere in the body of the Tweet is a 'mention.' This allows users to make sure specific person(s) see the tweet.
 - **Retweet/RT:** This allows Twitter users to share the best links, tweets, and information they find posted from other users. (Retweeting is similar to 'forwarding' an email.)
 - **Reply:** A reply is any tweet created by clicking the 'reply' button. A reply will always begin with the name of the user you are replying to. A reply message is still visible to all Twitter users; it is not private.
 - **Hashtags:** A topic with a hash symbol ("#") at the start to identify it is a 'hashtag.' Using hashtags makes searching for topics easier. Commonly used to organize tweets relating to topics, events, and conferences (i.e. #edchat, #ISTE12, #ketmmpd12)
 - Find the most commonly used Education hashtags: www.cybraryman.com/edhashtags.html
 - Follow Friday (#ff or #FF): Twitter users will tweet their favorite/most useful Twitter-ers to follow using this hashtag each Friday. (This is a good way to find other great Education users to follow!)
- **Direct Message/DM** – Mentions and replies are visible to everyone, Direct Messages are private messages sent to a specific user
 - Begin by composing a new tweet (often associated with a paper/quill icon, usually in the top right corner of your screen



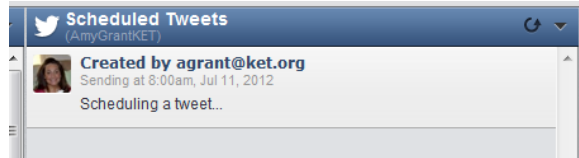
- Type a lowercase 'd' followed by a space, followed by the user you wish to message, a space, then your message.



- **Scheduling Tweets** – If you are using a service, such as Hootsuite, you can schedule your tweet to appear later.
 - Begin by composing a new tweet (often associated with a paper/quill icon)
 - Type your message.
 - Select the 'schedule' icon (usually a calendar with a '30')
 - Choose the date and time you wish your tweet to appear.
 - Select 'send now' or 'schedule' to complete.



- *Hootsuite has a column for Scheduled tweets; your upcoming tweets should be located under this column.



- Favorites – Allows you to ‘favorite’ a tweet (much like a bookmark) to refer back to later. Just select ‘favorite’ under the tweet.



- Again, Hootsuite has a column for your Favorites. Any tweets you have selected as Favorites should be listed there.

Twitter Manners

- Like we tell our students, if you wouldn't say it out loud to someone, don't put it online.
- Infographic - www.inspiredm.com/exclusive-cheat-sheet-twitter-manners/

Expand Your Learning

- Chats –
 - How to chat: www.cybraryman.com/howtochat.html
 - www.tweetchat.com
 - Enter the hashtag for your chat, and tweet away! (www.cybraryman.com/edhashtags.html)

Twitter Extras

- Twitter Toolbar button – allows you to send a website directly to Twitter.
 - Find your toolbar options (often associated with a wrench icon)
 - Select the ‘share’ tab
 - Check the Twitter box



- When you are on a website you would like to share on Twitter, simply click the Twitter button on your toolbar.
 - A tweet with the name of the site and web address should automatically come up. You can edit if necessary before posting your tweet.
- Analytics – see data on Twitter usage associated with your account (who has retweeted you, how many Twitter accounts have seen one of your tweets, etc.)
 - www.TweetReach.com and enter your Twitter name
 - www.twittercounter.com, www.tweetstats.com
 - www.twittertoolsbook.com/10-awesome-twitter-analytics-visualization-tools/
- Today's Meet – Twitter Alternative
 - www.todaysmeet.com
 - Twitter-like live posting, without signing up for any account.

Using Twitter in the Classroom

- How to Cite a Tweet – MLA www.mla.org/style/handbook_faq/cite_a_tweet
 - Remember, many professionals are on Twitter! Connect your students with authors, scientists, other students around the world, and career professionals! Easy, fast, and FREE!
- Streaming Tweets – Use these services to show tweets as they occur in real time
 - www.visibletweets.com
 - www.twitterfall.com
- Activities for the Classroom –
 - <http://plpnetwork.com/2012/04/27/twitter-in-the-classroom/>
 - www.teachhub.com/50-ways-use-twitter-classroom
 - <http://edudemic.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/TwitterSpectrum.jpg>
 - <http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2011/07/28-creative-ideas-for-teaching-with-twitter/>
 - https://docs.google.com/present/view?id=dhn2vcv5_118cfb8msf8

More Guides to Using Twitter

- www.cybraryman.com/twitter.html
- <http://theedublogger.com/2012/02/13/the-updated-twitteraholics-guide-to-tweets-hashtags-and-all-things-twitter/>
- www.plpnetwork.com/get-email-updates
- www.mashable.com/guidebook/twitter
- <http://edudemic.com/2012/04/100-ways-to-use-twitter-in-education-by-degree-of-difficulty/>