

## **The Social Institute**

### **Upper School Faculty Preparation Sessions**

#### **Context**

We were launching The Social Institute, an interactive program to help our school better navigate social media issues. Our teachers for the most part know almost nothing about social media, and even less about how our boys use it. They tend to give bad advice like, “just make everything private”. Parents are struggling to keep up as well and are asking for help with their sons’ phone use. Our Upper School boys are typical high school kids trying to navigate a complex and difficult world with social media.

We had been doing a program on social media once or twice a year created by our faculty, but we really needed a more comprehensive program. We made the choice to have all of our faculty facilitate these sessions in order to make sure they are learning it too. We need to create a culture of our teachers and boys talking about these issues all the time. Ultimately it’s about weaving what we are learning in this program into our curriculum. That is how it will have the best impact.

We never use “pre-packaged” programs. This is literally the first one we have used as an Upper School. We tend to think that what we can create is better than what a company creates for us. In this instance, we couldn’t create anything as vast and dynamic as this program, especially with interactive pieces. Our faculty is skeptical of new initiatives. We needed to make sure this was as successful of a launch as possible for this program to work. The overall goal was to make them feel prepared and comfortable facilitating our first session.

#### **Structure**

I ran nine 45-minute sessions in one day - one during each of our seven periods and one each before and after school. The small groups ranged from 3-15 teachers. It was mandatory.

#### **Goals**

- Make sure teachers understand and buy into why we are using this program.
- Give them experience as the user.
- Set them up to be ready for their first session.

## **#WINATSOCIAL**

Navigate our social world — including social media and technology — to fuel our health, happiness, and future success.

# The Social Institute



The directions on this slide might seem a bit odd. For context, I was holding these sessions in our brand new BUILD Lab. Most of our teachers hadn't even seen it yet. I wanted them to feel welcome and this is the slide I use as my students come into class.

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Why are we doing this? A prepackaged program isn't normally our style

1. Super important and past when needed - can get up and running quickly
2. We like that it is an all-school program - consistency of message
3. Like the interactive pieces
4. Will help all faculty be on the same page - important because these are topics we need to be teaching not just during programming, but in all interactions with students - the more you know, the more you can do that. Playlist example.
5. Teach faculty and parents
6. We can customize - already adjusted some things based on our suggestions - They will take our feedback
7. Because I completely freaked out when someone suggested we could just meet over the summer and design our own programming.

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How are you feeling going into this program about your abilities to facilitate these sessions with students?

## THE SOCIAL INSTITUTE'S SEVEN SOCIAL STANDARDS



### PLAY TO YOUR CORE

*Reflecting our values, character, and interests in our actions.*



### PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY LIKE YOU'RE FAMOUS

*Staying in control of our personal information.*



### STRIKE A BALANCE

*Balancing our time and attention on technology with the people around us.*



### CYBERBACK

*Having each others' back and supporting each other.*



### FIND YOUR INFLUENCERS

*Surrounding yourself with positive role models and credible influences.*



### USE YOUR MIC FOR GOOD

*Using technology as a microphone to create meaningful change.*



### HANDLE THE PRESSURE

*Finding your own path no matter the pressure from others.*

Overview of the program – organized lessons into 7 standards. We will do all seven over the course of the year.



***Balancing our time and attention on tech with the people around us.***

Example lesson topics:

- ★ Balancing your time on devices to reach your goals.
- ★ Recognizing the science behind screen time and social media.
- ★ Examining how technology shapes your school's culture.

This is the first standard we will tackle. Here's some more info about it.

<p>Strike A Balance <a href="#">View Lesson &gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><b>ASSESSING REPRESENTATION IN THE LATEST MEDIA WE'RE CONSUMING</b></p> <p>Curriculum <b>12</b> Grade</p>	<p>Strike A Balance <a href="#">View Lesson &gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><b>REIMAGINING MENTAL HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY POST-PANDEMIC</b></p> <p>Curriculum <b>11</b> Grade</p>
<p>Strike A Balance <a href="#">View Lesson &gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><b>EXCHANGING OUR FAVORITE PRODUCTIVITY HACKS AND TIME-SAVERS TO START THE YEAR STRONG</b></p> <p>Curriculum <b>10</b> Grade</p>	<p>Strike A Balance <a href="#">View Lesson &gt;&gt;</a></p> <p><b>DEBATING TECH GIANTS' NEWEST FEATURES AND THE SCIENCE OF SCREEN TIME</b></p> <p>Curriculum <b>9</b> Grade</p>

Each grade level has a different lesson, but all will be under the strike a balance theme. This makes sure that we are all working on the same topic, but each grade is getting something developmentally appropriate for their age. These are the lessons for our first session.



# **Empower Students**

## Challenge Students

## Engage Families

Each lesson has these three sections. We will only be doing the Empower Students section during our meetings. You are welcome to use the challenge students activities later if you'd like.

The engage families section will be sent to the parents when we do the lesson, so they can support the boys at home with the same information.



**Lesson Facts**  
**Lesson Intro**  
**Sprints**  
**Huddles**  
**Lesson Summary**

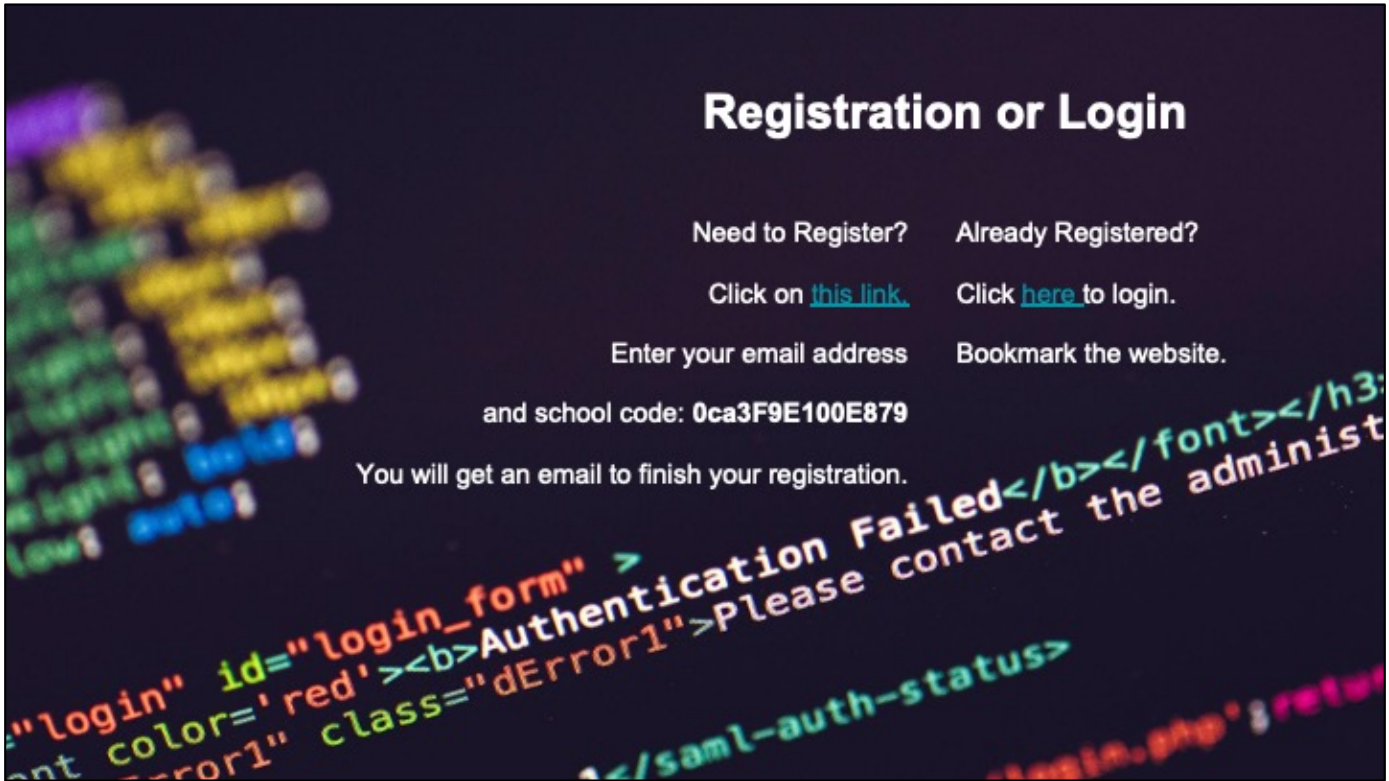
Each lesson is divided into these sections. Explain each section. Make joke that the sports analogies are everywhere in this program. 😊

Photo by [Andrew McElroy](#) on [Unsplash](#)



I ran a session with the teachers as the students so they could get the student experience and know what to tell them to do.

Photo by [Afif Kusuma](#) on [Unsplash](#)



Here we all logged into the program as teachers to make sure they could get in and find their session they would be running.

I made sure they knew where our module with all of the resources lives in our LMS.

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I asked how prepared they are feeling now.



Anytime you do something for the first time, there will be things that don't go perfectly. That's ok. You are professionals and can navigate whatever happens. We are here to support you and will get feedback from you after the first session.

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## Survey Responses

Did you feel adequately prepared for this lesson? 100% Yes

Please pass along any feedback about preparation for this lesson.

- Very thankful to have the prep session with Carey to walk through the questions and setup.
- Good preparation. Thank you, CP.
- I appreciated Carey walking through this with us prior to working with students.
- Carey's email with all the links in one place was helpful for quick access.
- Platform is pretty seamless and easy to follow. Carey's information session definitely helped ease any anxiety
- Carey's prep session was awesome and left me feeling quite prepared. The day before the lesson, I also looked over the lesson preview which was helpful.
- I think it's a good idea to always preview the lessons!
- I felt prepped to lead the group through the lesson

## Email Sent to Teachers

Hello all,

On Tuesday, September 21st we will kick off our The Social Institute lessons during advisory time. Please read the following information about the program:

### **Why are we doing this?**

Our boys face so many challenges in their lives that are exacerbated by social media. This program will help educate all of us, parents, teachers, and students alike, on how to navigate those challenges in a safe, honorable, and healthy way.

### **What are the Seven Social Standards?**

[Here's a document](#) that gives more information about each standard.

### **When will we do the lessons?**

Approximately once a month during advisory time. (Seven lessons over the course of the year.)

### **Who will lead the lessons?**

All of us. It's crucial to this program for all of us to know and understand social media and how to support our boys.

### **What lessons are we doing each month?**

We will have one standard per month. There is a lesson tied to that standard for each grade level. The first month's standard is Striking a Balance.

### **How will we be grouped?**

Boys and facilitators will be together in their House grade level groups. You can find those groups and your meeting places [here](#).

### **What if I feel woefully unprepared to facilitate lessons on social media?**

We are here to support you. You can find the Facilitation Guide [here](#). Also, before the first lesson, all facilitators are required to attend a preparation session with Carey Pohanka on Tuesday, September 14th.

She has multiple sessions for you to choose from. You can sign up for those [here](#). Please choose your time by noon on Monday.

**What if I want to do my own thing or something other than the lesson?**

You may not. The key to success of this program is for us all to follow the lessons. We need to build common language and understanding around these issues.

**What if I have questions or feedback about the program?**

Your divisional representatives (John Green, Sazshy Kane-West, and Carey Pohanka) are here to support you. We will also choose student leaders from each grade level soon to add to our leadership team.

**Where can I find important information about The Social Institute?**

There are resources on the Bulletin Board in our US Faculty/Staff Group on Saintsnet. Any important information will be stored there.

Thanks,

John, Sazshy, and Carey