

Which Platforms?

Social Media Platform	Pros	Cons
<p><u>Facebook</u></p>	<p>Usability - relatively easy to use</p> <p>Cost - FREE, unless you want to advertise or boost your posts.</p> <p>Relevance to teaching mathematics - Access to pages that share math ideas</p> <p>(Example: Jo Boaler's How to Learn Math and YouCubed.)</p>	<p>Safety - Cookies allows the platform to collect information about what you view in order to "personalize" posts that appear on your newsfeed. No privacy.</p> <p>Reliability - user beware...may be subjected to false advertising and being hacked.</p> <p>Age-Appropriate - Depends on the audience. Although they state that they do not allow underaged users, there are some.</p> <p>Interaction between student and teachers - not a platform that teachers and students should use to communicate.</p>
<p><u>Instagram</u></p>	<p>Usability - user friendly, easy to connect with others, creative ways to interact with others.</p> <p>Cost - FREE</p> <p>Relevance to teaching mathematics - You can follow math educators who share posts or videos about math.</p>	<p>Safety - No privacy, Instagram has permission to use whatever you post.</p> <p>https://help.instagram.com/581066165581870 See "Permission you give to us" section.</p> <p>"Claims to have a safe and supportive community for everyone."</p> <p>Cyber bullying still occurs.</p> <p>Reliability - Use at your own risk.</p> <p>Age-Appropriate - Depends on the content you follow. (At the discretion of the user.)</p> <p>Interaction between student and teachers - NOT a platform that teachers and students should use to communicate.</p>

Online Classrooms	Pros	Cons
<p>Google Classroom</p>	<p>Safety - claims to meet high security standards</p> <p>Reliability - Content is added and monitored by the classroom teacher.</p> <p>Age-Appropriate - yes, customizable to any grade.</p> <p>Usability - Training and PD for Educators. Product support is available.</p> <p>Cost - Free for schools, included with G Suite for Education.</p> <p>Relevance to teaching mathematics - Relevant to teaching; lessons and content are added and monitored by the teacher.</p> <p>Interaction between student and teachers - effective and relevant to learning and supports a professional student : teacher relationship.</p>	<p>Safety - May not be approved to use by all school districts due to security standards not meeting their requirements.</p> <p>Usability - additional time is required to learn how to use the platform.</p> <p>Reliability - potential for system “crashes”, how would the information be accessed?</p>
<p>Showbie</p>	<p>Safety - high privacy standards, passwords required. Cookies does not track user activity or share information with third parties. https://www.showbie.com/privacy/</p> <p>Reliability - based out of Edmonton; focus is on providing technology for education to support teachers and students.</p> <p>Age-Appropriate - yes, content is provided by teacher and is grade specific.</p> <p>Usability - A number of support professionals to assist when needed. Webinars to support teachers on using the platform.</p> <p>Cost - Basic Edition is FREE, Pro Edition for Individual Teachers is \$149 US/year, and fees for the Pro Edition for Schools and Districts is not posted and you have to call for pricing details.</p> <p>Relevance to teaching mathematics - Teachers support learning by providing students with lessons and assignments.</p> <p>Interaction between student and teachers - confidential, yet professional interactions between parents : teachers : students</p>	<p>Usability - takes an hour to setup.</p> <p>Cost - Pro Edition for Individual Teachers is \$149 US/year, and fees for the Pro Edition for Schools and Districts is not posted and you have to call for pricing details.</p>

Based on my investigation, these are my thoughts:

The social media platforms that I currently use are Instagram and Facebook, but honestly, I seldom post on these platforms. The only exception being July and August, where I post activities to highlight the outdoor summer camp that I coordinate. I mostly use Facebook to showcase what my business has to offer families in the community, and the different activities that we have done throughout the day. It is a way for me to share with parents what their children have been doing throughout the week. I am also very cautious when posting; always requesting parental consent prior to doing so. As for Instagram, I have not posted anything in years, and only use it to follow what my family and friends are doing. My investigation into both of these platforms scared me a little in terms of privacy. I am embarrassed to admit it, but I have never read the privacy policies on either of these. I am definitely going to be more mindful going forward about posting and searching on these apps.

In regards to the online classroom platforms, I feel that Google Classrooms could easily support remote learning, and monitor student learning. It appears to be very user-friendly, and has a number of apps to support integrating creative and engaging lessons to capture student's attention. From what I can see, the Google Platform allows teachers to create a virtual classroom community which allows them to interact and assess students on a daily basis, meanwhile supporting learning goals and meeting curriculum requirements. As for Showbie, I have not heard of it before and it looks like a great platform, but suspect that more school districts do not use it because of the fees attached to it. Overall, these are both great platforms to support teachers as they integrate technology into the classroom, but I also wonder if using these platforms actually save you time.

To all of the experienced teachers out there; does integrating something like this save you time in terms of lesson prep? Does learning time increase in comparison to what teachers have been doing for years?