



# Twitter—Just the Facts

-  **What is it?** It is a real-time social networking & micro-blogging tool. It allows users to follow others with similar interests.
-  **What is a Tweet?** It is a message with up to 140 characters (includes spaces). The message may contain text, photo or a link. Be concise, use a URL shortner like: <http://tinyurl.com/>
-  **Why Should I?** Twitter allows you to grow your personal & professional network. In real-time!
-  **Do I have to Tweet?** No, you can just lurk/listen but it is more useful if you interact with others.
-  **What is #?** This is called a Hashtag. It is a way to categorize or highlight topics/keywords.

Example: At the Learn 21 Conference the hashtag: #L21Conf Like the Bengals hashtag: #Bengals  
So if you want to search for Bengals in the search box type in #Bengals to see what conversations are going on about the Bengals. Looking for a 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher? You might put: *Great video for #Grade8math then the URL*

 **What is @?** The @ symbol means “at” When used in front of a username it means you are directing your tweet at that person.

Example: @MisterZoller means I am directing a message at James Zoller. Just know that this is still a public tweet—others can see it. *Great inservice @MisterZoller today! Hope we get some new recruits.*



**What does it mean to Retweet?** This a great way to share what other people have said or share their links. You will probably want to give credit to the original source (by mentioning their name).



**What does it mean to Reply?** It means you are direction a comment back to the person who tweeted. Just remember this is a public comment.

 **Who Might You Follow?** Jot down a few ideas today!

WMS Tweets Wiki: <http://wmstweets.wikispaces.com/>

*Let Twitter transform your personal and professional growth.*