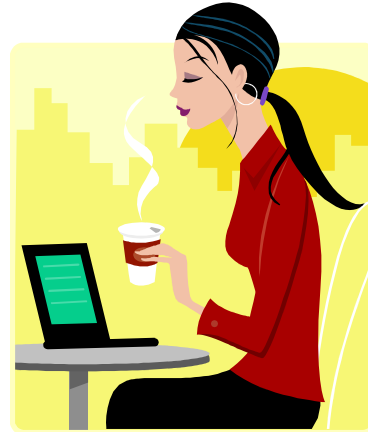


iParent Network Provides Connection for Parents in Ashford, Mansfield & Willington

Do you tweet, twitter or “IM”? Do you know what these terms mean? Barbara Casey and the iParent Network want to make sure that parents in Ashford, Mansfield and Willington have at least a general comfort level with these and other technology terms. Begun as an offshoot of a group working to curb underage drinking, the network provides parents with the tools to navigate the virtual world in order to decrease the chance that our children will engage in high-risk behaviors. Open to all parents of students from the three Region 19 towns, the network hopes to serve as a “virtual town square”.



The site is free and is already host to 124 members. Mrs. Casey, a former MMS parent and the mother of two high school ages students said that this kind of resource is particularly helpful as kids get older.



The network provides a variety of resources, including:

- Parenting resources
- Tri-town calendar – members can add items with a week’s notice
- Help in understanding the technology tools kids use
- Area parenting resources
- Dictionary of IM (instant messaging) language
- Groups for various topics
- Anonymous Q/A forums
- A secure site (no Google connection)
- WIKI (“**W**hat **I** **K**now **I**s”)
- Micro-blogs
- Blogs

Parents can access this site through www.iparentnetwork.org