

Getting Started with Twitter

Once you've started your Twitter account, here's how to get active & start building your PLN (Professional Learning Network):

1. Choose a short Twitter name that captures who you are. Use a picture of yourself. When you attend meetings people will immediately recognize you.
2. Once you start your account, please go to <http://bit.ly/IPLITwitter> and add yourself to the list of Indiana Principal Leadership Institute Principals on Twitter (from now on this will be referred to as #IPLI)
3. Your bio should tell about your interests (professional and/or personal). This enables those viewing your profile to know who you are and decide if they should follow you. Add a link to your blog or website if you have one.



Find other educators ("tweeps") to follow.

You can search by your interests using the search box at the top of the page. For example, if you want to find other principals, a common hashtag to search is #cpchat (for Connected Principals). This will bring up a list of tweets that contain #cpchat. Click on the @Name of a person to bring up their profile and click "follow."

Other hashtag searches you may be interested in:

#IPLI (Indiana Principal Leadership Institute---keep this going!) #Educoach (Instructional Coaches/Mentors)
#satchat (Saturday Ed Leadership chat) #atplc (All Things PLC)

You can find a full list of hashtags at: <http://cybraryman.com/chats.html>

Another way to find people to follow is to look at the profile of someone you follow to see who they follow or who follows them. Unfollowing someone is not a big deal, so don't worry about offending others if you decide you don't want to follow them anymore.

Here are a list of some of my faves to get you started:

@PrincipalJ	@8Amber8	@ToddWhitaker	@DrSpikeCook
@NMHS_Principal	@CurtRees	@ReadbyExample	@mmiller7571
@twhitford	@ShiraLeibowitz	@LeaderandReader	@Cantiague_Lead
@ChadHarnisch	@JoeSanfelippofc	@rondmac	@eduleadership
@MrsLTech	@PrincipalStager	@Joe_Mazza	@ChrisWejr
@gcouros	@wcarozza	@TeacherMelissa	@timlauer
@principalcast	@teachercast	@Akevy613	@Leah_Whit



Type your first tweet to the world.

It doesn't have to be a literary masterpiece. A simple "This is my first tweet!" will work just fine. Please also type #IPLI in your tweet so we can all find each other.



Reply to another person's tweet or mention someone in one of your tweets.

"I just learned about twitter and am now following great people like @ToddWhitaker"



Share a link in a tweet.

Find an article or blog post you want to share to your followers. Paste the URL into your message (Twitter automatically shortens the URL so it doesn't eat up all 140 characters) and then add a comment about your thoughts on the article. "Here is a great blog post about Pencils by @mrlosik <http://bit.ly/syi2CG>"

*Note: If you think a blog post about pencils sounds stupid...it's actually a really great post that's about technology.



Retweet someone else's tweet.

If you read something that you find interesting and poignant, retweet it so that the people who follow you can also read it. Simply click the retweet button or copy/paste the text and precede it with RT.



Favorite a tweet.

Using the "favorite" feature of Twitter is a great way to mark that tweet so you can look at it (or attached URL) later. You can find all the tweets you've favorited by looking at your profile page. Just click the "favorited" link again to remove it from your favorites list. The favorite feature is also a way to acknowledge a person's tweet without having to reply to them.



Use a hashtag in your tweet.

A hashtag is like a subject line and also makes it easy to sort and find tweets. Try it in one of your tweets. "I'm having a blast learning about Twitter at #IPLI"



Send someone a Direct Message (or DM)

Direct Messages, or DMs, are the private messages of Twitter. This is the Twitter equivalent to email. Only you and the recipient can read these messages. You can only DM users if they are following you, but you do not necessarily need to be following them.