

Digital Citizenship: Helping Students Be Safe, Responsible, and Ethical Digital Creators and Consumers

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An Overview

As we provide ubiquitous access to computing devices to our students in Lake Stevens School District, it becomes ever more important that we develop students who understand how to use the internet effectively, understanding that their online actions can lead to both positive and negative outcomes.

This plan outlines our path to ensure that all students are provided multiple opportunities to learn about and discuss age appropriate topics that help them become good digital citizens.







The Curriculum

LSSD has adopted the CommonSense Media digital citizenship curriculum. It provides 73 lessons broken down into 3 developmentally appropriate lessons at grade levels K-1 and 6 at grade levels 2-12 targeted at issues and technologies students will most likely encounter at home and at school at that time in their lives. The lessons include lesson slides, customizable resources, videos, bilingual materials, and take-home resources. The curriculum spirals across grade levels to provide a cross curricular approach.

Assessment is built into each lesson and an online unit assessment that can be completed after all six lessons at each grade level are completed.

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/curriculum>

The CommonSense curriculum is organized around six core digital literacy and citizenship topics:

 Media Balance and Literacy <i>We find balance in our digital lives</i> <i>Students go beyond screen time to explore the impact their digital lives can have on their well-being and relationships while learning to balance media in their everyday lives.</i>	 Privacy and Security <i>We care about everyone's privacy</i> <i>Students learn how to protect personal information and gain a deeper understanding of their data privacy rights so they can advocate for themselves and others.</i>
 Relationships and Communication <i>We know the power of words and actions</i> <i>Students reflect on how to build positive relationships, avoid risky online talk, and understand why some topics and conversations can best lend themselves to certain mediums.</i>	 Cyberbullying, Digital Drama & Hate Speech <i>We are kind and courageous</i> <i>Students take on these tough topics and play the active role of upstander to build positive, supportive online communities and combat online cruelty.</i>
 Digital Footprint and Identity <i>We define who we are</i> <i>Students consider the benefits and risks of online sharing and explore how a digital persona can affect one's sense of self, reputation, and relationships</i>	 News and Media Literacy <i>We are critical thinkers and creators</i> <i>Students identify credible and trustworthy information sources and reflect on their responsibilities as thoughtful media creators and consumers.</i>

Call to Action

Having a clear scope and sequence we must find the classroom time needed to implement it effectively to ensure our students learn to be safe, responsible and ethical users of the internet. We will need to dedicate days throughout the year at each grade level to deliver the curriculum. Some of the lessons are best taught as close to the beginning of the year as possible, while others might be best left until later. To meet school, teacher, and student needs and to provide assurance that all students receive the opportunity to learn to be good digital citizens, here is our implementation proposal.

Start with Digital Citizenship Month

As an introduction to Chromebooks and technology in general, the first month of school each year could be a Digital Citizenship Month. Every teacher in every school should teach two lessons from their grade level band. For example, on Thursday every first grade teacher might teach the lesson “Pause and Think Online” and on Friday every first grade teacher might teach “How Technology Makes you Feel.” Every other grade level would do a similar schedule.

Schools can be as creative about this as they want. Students might be asked to sign a Digital Citizenship Pledge, or perhaps have students share digital citizenship tips they’ve learned at curriculum nights later in the month.

To help teachers keep digital citizenship front and center at all times, create, print and distribute posters teachers can hang in their classrooms that highlight the key points the students will learn that year. This can be used as a quiet daily reminder as well as a regular teacher reminder that Lake Stevens students are expected to be good digital citizens at all times.

Follow Up Lessons Throughout the Year

Four additional times will be needed to teach the entire curriculum for each grade level. Within the following time frames each school should identify a time during the day when a digital citizenship lesson will be taught. These days will be as follows:

Lesson 3: second week in October

Lesson 4: first week of second semester

Lesson 5: second week in March

Lesson 6: first week of June

We strongly encourage teachers at each of these sessions to ask students to pledge verbally or in writing their intent to be good digital citizens and to practice what they’ve learned.




We All Teach Digital Citizenship All the Time

It is important that we remember every adult employee of the Lake Stevens School District teaches digital citizenship. We all carry the responsibility to make sure that our students are safe, responsible and ethical users of the internet. We teach by example as much as we do with words and must remember that students watch all adults and will emulate what they see those in authority doing. All adults are responsible to respond quickly to concerns they might learn about through casual conversations with students, conversations they might overhear, or through behaviors they observe that indicate students are not being responsible or ethical. Our students deserve our best efforts at helping them learn to use such a powerful tool for learning, but that also holds the potential to cause much damage to the unknowledgeable and naive young person.

Digital Citizenship: Kindergarten

Many of our students come to us already using digital devices and media. At this age we will work together as a class to explore ways to safely use the internet at home and school. Students will use their new letter skills to search for things on the internet and identify sites that are “kid friendly” to help them find exactly what they want. They will explore the idea of creating balance between online and offline activities and how to “unplug” even when they don’t necessarily want to.




Kindergarten Lessons

	<u>Media Balance is Important</u>	How do we find a happy balance between our online and offline activities?
	<u>Pause for People</u>	How do you say goodbye to tech when you don't want to?
	<u>Safety in My Online Neighborhood</u>	How do you go places safely online?

Digital Citizenship: First Grade

In First Grade students are introduced to a host of digital citizenship concepts they'll continue to study in more and more depth for the rest of their school career. The year begins by understanding that online actions have consequences and not everyone will treat others respectfully. Helping them understand early on how to deal with these encounters is critical. First graders begin the lifelong process of understanding how to stay safe when visiting a website or using an app. First grade teachers know that their students are all just beginning to understand that they can find such wonderful information on the internet, and this year is all about staying safe.








First Grade Lessons

	Pause & Think Online	How can we be safe, responsible, and respectful online?
	How Technology Makes You Feel	Why is it important to listen to your feelings when using tech?
	Internet Traffic Light	How do you stay safe when visiting a website or an app?

Digital Citizenship: Second Grade

In second grade our students gain the ability to write paragraphs and essays which increases the likelihood they'll be using those skills to communicate with others. Our second grade students are just being introduced to Google Docs and collaborating with others in their class, so these lessons are especially timely. Students move to several lessons on maintaining their privacy and understanding what their digital footprint is and what is okay to share online. Students also learn how to respond when someone is mean to them in an online setting and the year ends with a lesson on how to give credit to other people when they use their material.







Second Grade Lessons

	<u>We the Digital Citizens</u>	How can we be good digital citizens?
	<u>Device-Free Moments</u>	Why is it important that we have device-free moments in our lives?
	<u>That's Private!</u>	What kinds of information should I keep to myself when I use the internet?
	<u>Digital Trails</u>	What information is OK to have in your digital footprint?
	<u>Who is in Your Online Community?</u>	How are we all part of an online community?
	<u>Putting a Stop to Online Meanness</u>	What should you do if someone is mean to you online?
	<u>Let's Give Credit!</u>	How can you give credit for other people's work?

Digital Citizenship: Third Grade

Third grade students look in depth at just about every category in the Digital Citizenship curriculum. That's because they are ready to try it all and have the technical and cognitive skills to figure out plenty that could potentially place them in harm's way if we don't intervene. We start the year understanding how to take responsibility for themselves and the broader digital community. Students are introduced to creating and maintaining strong passwords. We stress that what kids post online creates an online identity and how to be mindful of what they are sharing. Towards the end of the sequence of lessons, students process what to do when someone is mean to them online and finally to consider the validity of digital images and videos.







Third Grade Lessons

	Rings of Responsibility	How do digital citizens take responsibility for themselves, their communities, and their world?
	Password Power-Up	How can a strong password help protect your privacy?
	This Is Me	How does what I post affect my online identity?
	Our Digital Citizenship Pledge	What makes a strong online community?
	The Power of Words	What should you do when someone uses mean or hurtful language on the internet?
	Is Seeing Believing?	Why do people alter digital photos and videos?

Digital Citizenship: Fourth Grade

Fourth grade students focus on establishing and maintaining a healthy presence in an online environment. Students learn the "What? When? How Much?" framework for describing their media choices and use this framework and their emotional responses to evaluate how healthy different types of media choices are. They begin to develop their own idea of a healthy media balance and identify the reasons why people share information about themselves online. Learning the difference between private and personal information is an important concept this year. Students explain why it is risky to share private information online. This lesson is followed by students learning what a digital footprint is and how to create and maintain a positive digital footprint. Because online gaming becomes more prevalent at this age, students define "social interaction" and describe the positives and negatives of social interaction in online games. Reflecting on the characteristics that make someone an upstanding digital citizen and recognizing what cyberbullying is are topics students engage in becoming a Super Digital Citizen. Finally, as students begin to engage in research more in the intermediate grades, students spend time defining "copyright" and explain how it applies to creative work. In addition they describe their rights and responsibilities as creators and apply copyright principles to real-life scenarios.







Fourth Grade Lessons

	My Media Choices	What makes a healthy media choice?
	Private and Personal Information	What information about you is OK to share online?
	Our Online Tracks	How does our online activity affect the digital footprints of ourselves and others?
	Keeping Games Fun and Friendly	How can I be positive and have fun while playing online games and help others do the same?
	Super Digital Citizen	How can we be upstanders when we see cyberbullying?
	A Creator's Rights and Responsibilities	What rights and responsibilities do you have as a creator?

Digital Citizenship: Fifth Grade

Fifth grade introduces the problem of cyberbullying and strategies for handling it if it happens to a student or their friend. The idea of personal responsibility when using the web is reinforced in several ways. Students begin using social networking much more at this age, and the concepts of privacy and safe online communications take a lead in the curriculum topics. As students' begin to use online sites to shape their shopping and spending habits, the curriculum begins looking at how online sites try to manipulate them into making decisions they might not otherwise make. The fifth grade curriculum parallels the changes occurring in the student's physical and personal lives.







Fifth Grade Lessons

	Finding My Media Balance	What does media balance mean for you?
	You Won't Believe This!	What is clickbait, and how can you avoid it?
	Beyond Gender Stereotypes	How do gender stereotypes shape our experiences online?
	Digital Friendships	How do you keep online friendships safe?
	Is it Cyberbullying?	What is cyberbullying, and what can you do to stop it?
	Reading News Online	What are the important parts of an online news article?

Digital Citizenship: Sixth Grade

In sixth grade students begin taking a much deeper look at many of the topics they were introduced to in the elementary grades. Students develop strategies for standing up to cyberbullies and help their friends when necessary. Understanding better search strategies is coupled with a much more in depth look at copyrights, both in material they use and the rights they have as a creator. As students begin to build more complex and advanced products online, they need an understanding of giving credit in their work and protecting their own work with some sort of licensing. Continuing the introduction of marketing techniques in Fifth grade, students also learn how the internet is a great place to scam people out of their hard earned money. Last, but certainly not least, the curriculum turns to managing a digital life successfully to stay physically healthy and socially engaged.


Sixth Grade Lessons

	Finding Balance in a Digital World	How do we balance digital media use in our lives?
	Don't Feed the Phish	How can you protect yourself from phishing?
	Who Are You Online?	What are the benefits and drawbacks of presenting yourself in different ways online?
	Chatting Safely Online	How do you chat safely with people you meet online?
	Digital Drama Unplugged	How can you de-escalate digital drama so it doesn't go too far?
	Finding Credible News	How do we find credible information on the internet?

Digital Citizenship: Seventh Grade

Seventh grade students become extremely self-conscious of the many facets of their lives, and helping them see the effects media and online activities might have on that self-image takes front and center in this year's curriculum. Students continue looking at copyright from both a personal and legal angle. Rather than a list of rules, students understand the need to cite sources by understanding the need to protect their own work. Students spend a great deal of time looking at ways their online habits can affect their self-image. The way sites use stereotypes to manipulate and influence decisions, to analyzing the way they use media, students work throughout the year to learn strategies to counter the constant barrage of messages they receive from games, television, movies, and web sites.







Seventh Grade Lessons

	My Media Use: A Personal Challenge	What is your strategy for finding media balance?
	Big, Big Data	How do companies collect and use data about you?
	The Power of Digital Footprints	What is a digital footprint, and what does yours convey?
	My Social Media Life	How does social media affect our relationships?
	Upstanders and Allies	How can you respond when cyberbullying occurs?
	The Four Factors of Fair Use	What rights to fair use do you have as a creator?

Digital Citizenship: Eighth Grade

In Eighth Grade students conclude the series of cyberbullying lessons by learning to differentiate between teasing and bullying, an important concept they can take with them in their future careers. Student projects at this age involve so many sources and are often mashups and remixes of sources they have found on the web. They have to learn what is their original work and what they need to credit to others in this rapidly changing world. As we prepare students at this age for high school and beyond, we have a responsibility to teach them to judge the origin of a site and its trustworthiness for accurate and unbiased information. Eighth graders begin a serious look at their digital footprint and how it can affect them in friendships, future opportunities in career and school, and how that footprint can be managed successfully by posting the good things they want people to know about them.

Eighth Grade Lessons

	Digital Media and Your Brain	How does digital media try to hook you, and what can you do about it?
	Being Aware of What You Share	How can you protect your privacy when you're online?
	Social Media and Digital Footprints: Our Responsibilities	How does using social media affect our digital footprints?
	Sexting and Relationships	What are the risks and potential consequences of sexting?
	Responding to Online Hate Speech	How should you respond to online hate speech?
	This Just In!	How should you respond to breaking news online?

Digital Citizenship: Ninth Grade

Social media becomes the way to share your life with friends, but what happens when you share too much, or inappropriately? Students learn to use social media to bring out the good things about them and avoid the missteps that lead to failed opportunities later in life. Shaping your digital image is a career skill. Anonymity on the web makes people do things they never would in person and ninth graders consider how this can spiral out of control quickly if they don't think first about what they post. This discussion spills into the pressure they feel to take pictures and post, edit and comment on these and their friends. Learning to be responsible and caring will preserve friendships and avoid hurtful situations they might not have intended, as well as keep everyone on the right side of the law.







Ninth Grade Lessons

	My Digital Media Life Is Like ...	What is the role of digital media in our lives?
	TheBig Data Dilemma	What are the benefits and drawbacks of online tracking?
	Protecting Online Reputation	How can you respect the privacy of others online?
	Chatting and Red Flags	How can you tell when an online relationship is risky?
	What You Send in "That Moment When..."	How can we act with empathy and positivity when we're online?
	Hoaxes and Fakes	How can you avoid being fooled by fake videos and other information online?

Digital Citizenship: Tenth Grade

Imagine having to register as a sex offender before you leave high school. It happens more than we care to know and in tenth grade students learn about risks they face when they carry their relationships onto the internet. This important lesson is followed by a series of lessons that help students learn sites and strategies they can use to build communities in their digital space. They look at the way their actions online shape how people view them and strategies to keep a positive image at all times. Even though we'd like to think it doesn't happen, students can still be too trusting of online personas and unhealthy and harmful relationships can occur as a result. Students will explore how they represent themselves online and how others can misrepresent their persona.







Tenth Grade Lessons

	Social Media and How You Feel	How does your social media use affect how you feel?
	Risk Check for New Tech	What privacy risks do new technologies present, and how do we decide if they're worth it?
	Curated Lives	How can I create a social media presence that represents the real me?
	Rewarding Relationships	How can I make sure my relationships are strong and healthy?
	Countering Hate Speech Online	How can we counter online hate speech and xenophobia?
	Challenging Confirmation Bias	How can we challenge our own confirmation bias?

Digital Citizenship: Eleventh Grade

The eleventh grade curriculum begins to prepare students for a digital life beyond high school. As they develop a more empathetic view of the world, they finish the series of cyberbullying lessons by working to understand the ramifications and effects of online cruelty and how they can minimize it in their own interactions and relationships. Students move on to look at topics that will most certainly affect them throughout their adult lives. Learning that everything they post about themselves becomes public and leaves a “digital footprint” will keep them from losing a job or a college admission. Students take a close look at privacy as it relates to their digital lives and how their everyday use of the Internet is much more closely tracked than they might have thought. Students leave eleventh grade with a look at a new category of celebrity -- the online sensation. From YouTube to blogging to digital tools, young people find themselves in the spotlight. How does that affect them, and what stereotypes might influence who makes it big and who doesn't?





Eleventh Grade Lessons

	<u>Can Media Be Addictive?</u>	Are we addicted to our devices, and, if so, are companies to blame?
	<u>How Young Is Too Young for Social Media?</u>	Should websites that collect personal information have an age requirement?
	<u>Who's Looking at Your Digital Footprint</u>	How can information you post on the internet affect your future opportunities?
	<u>Connecting with Digital Audiences</u>	How can we adjust our language online to communicate effectively with different audiences?
	<u>Online Disinhibition and Cyberbullying</u>	How does online disinhibition sometimes lead to cyberbullying?
	<u>Clicks for Cash</u>	How does internet advertising contribute to the spread of misinformation?

Digital Citizenship: Twelfth Grade

In our last year with students, our curriculum takes one last look at topics that they will face throughout their lives. Building on the discussion of maintaining a positive digital footprint they began in eleventh grade, students are challenged to think about the affect their posts with others information, photos, and actions can have on the digital footprint of friends, relatives and acquaintances. Exploring who keeps what data on them as they use the web and how that data is used, including understanding the privacy policies posted on websites, will help students understand why ads, offers, and other information is pushed at them at all times. They finish out their last year in high school looking at hate speech and the ways it can affect various groups and how online collaboration can be both beneficial and useful.

Twelfth Grade Lessons

	The Health Effects of Screen Time	Can screen time be bad for us?
	Debating the Privacy Line	Should the government have access to all your social media and cell phone data?
	The Change You Want to See	How can you create a digital footprint that showcases your purpose?
	We Are Civil Communicators	How can we communicate with civility online?
	The Consequences of Online Hate Speech	Should online hate speech be censored?
	Filter Bubble Trouble	How can filter bubbles limit the information we're exposed to?