ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Digital Citizenship Curriculum

Organized by Actual Classroom Sections: K, 1–2, 3–4, 5, 6–7, 8

Source: Common Sense Education (commonsense.org/education)

> *How to access these lessons: go to commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship. A free educator account (optional) lets you save favorites, download printable handouts, and track usage. Browsing lessons requires no account. Filter by grade to see each grade's six lessons; each opens into a full teacher-facing plan (slide deck or video, handouts, short assessment) — no special training needed, 20–45 minutes, projector or shared screen only. Spanish versions available for families.*
>
> *A note on timing: this curriculum will be archived in December 2026, replaced by Common Sense's new K–8 "Digital Literacy & Well-Being" curriculum (140+ lessons, more interactive). Everything below is free and usable right now, and the topics/structure will map cleanly onto the new version when it's live.*

KINDERGARTEN

> *No Kindergarten lessons currently exist in this Common Sense curriculum — it begins at 1st grade. The new "Digital Literacy & Well-Being" curriculum launching December 2026 will include K for the first time; this section can be filled in once that's live. In the meantime, a short teacher-led conversation adapted from the 1st grade "Pause & Think Online" song/intro would be the simplest bridge if a K touchpoint is wanted this year.*

GRADES 1–2 (Combo Classroom)

Topic	Selected Lesson	Essential Question	Older-Grade Alt	Note
Introductory Song	Pause & Think Online (1st)	How can we be safe, responsible, and respectful online?	*We, the Digital Citizens (2nd)*	*Either works as a year-opener; 1st grade's is the simpler intro.*
Healthy Habits	How Technology Makes You Feel (1st)	Why is it important to listen to your feelings when using technology?	*Device-Free Moments (2nd)*	
Privacy & Safety	Internet Traffic Light (1st)	How do you stay safe when visiting a website or app?	*That's Private! (2nd)*	
Digital Footprint & Identity	Digital Trails (2nd)	What information is OK to have in your digital footprint?	—	*No 1st grade lesson exists on this topic — use 2nd grade's for the whole room.*
Relationships / Communication	Who Is in Your Online Community? (2nd)	How are we all part of an online community?	—	*No 1st grade lesson exists on this topic — use 2nd grade's for the whole room.*
Cyberbullying & Online Harms	Putting a STOP to Online Meanness (2nd)	What should you do if someone is mean to you online?	—	*No 1st grade lesson exists on this topic — use 2nd grade's for the whole room.*
Information & Media Literacy	Let's Give Credit! (2nd)	How can you give credit for other people's work?	—	*No 1st grade lesson exists on this topic —*

Topic	Selected Lesson	Essential Question	Older-Grade Alt	Note
				use 2nd grade's for the whole room.

GRADES 3–4 (Combo Classroom)

Topic	Selected Lesson	Essential Question	Older-Grade Alt	Note
Healthy Habits	Your Rings of Responsibility (3rd)	How do digital citizens take responsibility for themselves, their communities, and their world?	*My Media Choices (4th)*	
Privacy & Safety	Password Power-Up (3rd)	How can a strong password help protect your privacy?	*Private and Personal Information (4th)*	
Digital Footprint & Identity	This Is Me (3rd)	How does what I post online affect my identity?	*Our Online Tracks (4th)*	
Relationships & Communication	Our Digital Citizenship Pledge (3rd)	What makes a strong online community?	*Keeping Games Fun and Friendly (4th)*	
Cyberbullying & Online Harms	The Power of Words (3rd)	What should you do when someone uses mean or hurtful language on the internet?	*Be a Super Digital Citizen (4th)*	
Information & Media Literacy	Is Seeing Believing? (3rd)	Why do people alter digital photos and videos?	*A Creator's Rights and Responsibilities (4th)*	

GRADE 5

Lesson	Topic	Essential Question	Note
Finding My Media Balance	*Healthy Habits*	What does media balance mean for me?	
You Won't Believe This!	*Privacy & Safety*	What is clickbait and how can you avoid it?	
Beyond Gender Stereotypes	*Digital Footprint & Identity*	How do gender stereotypes shape our experiences online?	
Digital Friendships	*Relationships & Communication*	How do you keep online friendships safe?	
Is It Cyberbullying?	*Cyberbullying & Online Harms*	What is cyberbullying and what can you do to stop it?	
Reading News Online	*Information & Media Literacy*	What are the important parts of an online news article?	

GRADES 6–7 (Combo Classroom)

Topic	Selected Lesson	Essential Question	Older-Grade Alt	Note
Healthy Habits	Finding Balance in a Digital World (6th)	How do we balance digital media use in our lives?	*My Media Use: A Personal Challenge (7th)*	
Privacy & Safety	Don't Feed the Phish (6th)	How can you protect yourself from phishing?	*Big, Big Data (7th)*	
Digital Footprint & Identity	Who Are You Online? (6th)	What are the benefits and drawbacks of presenting yourself in different ways online?	*The Power of Digital Footprints (7th)*	
Relationships & Communicatio n	Chatting Safely Online (6th)	How do you chat safely with people you meet online?	*My Social Media Life (7th)*	
Cyberbullying & Online Harms	Digital Drama Unplugged (6th)	How can you de-escalate digital drama so it doesn't go too far?	*Upstanders and Allies (7th)*	
Information & Media Literacy	Finding Credible News (6th)	How do we find credible information on the internet?	*The Four Factors of Fair Use (7th)*	

GRADE 8

Lesson	Topic	Essential Question	Note
Digital Media and Your Brain	*Healthy Habits*	How does digital media try to hook you, and what can you do about it?	
Being Aware of What You Share	*Privacy & Safety*	How can you protect your privacy when you're online?	
Social Media and Digital Footprints	*Digital Footprint & Identity*	How does using social media affect our digital footprints?	
Sexting and Relationships	*Relationships & Communication*	What are the risks and potential consequences of sexting?	*Preview first — frank content*
Responding to Online Hate Speech	*Cyberbullying & Online Harms*	How should you respond to online hate speech?	
This Just In!	*Information & Media Literacy*	How should we react to breaking news?	

Suggested Starting Point

> *Since this is new for the school, consider starting with just the first 2 topics (Healthy Habits and Privacy & Safety) across every section in the first month, then adding Digital Footprint, Relationships, Cyberbullying, and Media Literacy across the rest of the year. Each section's full topic set takes roughly 3–4 hours of total instructional time across a full year — very manageable even for a staff new to teaching tech content, combo classrooms included.*