Digital Citizenship in Elementary School:
Preparing Students for Learning & Life

COURSE OVERVIEW

Kids are growing up in a world where they can use digital media to explore, connect, create, and learn in ways never before imagined. With this power, students have extraordinary opportunities, yet they face potential pitfalls with internet safety, privacy, cyberbullying, evaluating online sources, and more. These issues underscore the need for kids to learn — and for teachers to teach — digital citizenship. This course is designed to improve your understanding of kids' digital lives, introduce you to eight core topics of digital citizenship, and equip you with high-quality resources to teach digital citizenship to your elementary school students.

COURSE GOALS

- Develop an accurate picture of the diverse digital lives of younger and older elementary students, including their motivations and behaviors
- Build a toolkit of strategies to teach digital citizenship in order to help students harness technology for learning and life
- Familiarize yourself with high-quality teaching resources, including curriculum for students and a parent engagement program, to enable a whole-community approach to digital citizenship in your school community

The course contains authentic learning experiences with carefully selected articles and videos, as well as activities from Common Sense Education's free Digital Citizenship Curriculum. An online community of educators provide interaction around the course materials, assignments, and sharing of best practices.

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OVERVIEW OF COURSE SECTIONS

Session 1 – Defining Digital Citizenship

In this introductory session, you will define digital citizenship and be introduced to eight core topics (the focus of sessions 2-9). You will begin interacting with Common Sense Education's free Digital Citizenship Curriculum, including lesson plans, videos and activities, family engagement materials and more.

Session 2 – Privacy & Security

How can kids understand understand what online privacy means, and keep their data safe and secure? Explore common risks to individuals' data online, including data mining and tracking, online scams, phishing, and identity theft. Learn how to help students keep their information safe and secure by using strong passwords, comparing what is and is not okay to share, and identifying ways sites might trick kids into giving out information.

Session 3 – Internet Safety

As students communicate with others online (both known and unknown), there is potential for unsafe online communication. Explore how to talk about internet safety in ways that resonate with kids' lived experiences, rather than using a "stranger danger" approach. Discover research-based ways to help kids make healthy choices in their interactions, identify which sites and apps are "just right" for them, and follow safety rules online.

Session 4 – Self-Image & Identity

How has the internet changed the way kids develop their identity and sense of self? Gain a richer picture of the interplay between kids' online and offline identities, including how stereotypes about gender and other factors can influence kids. Examine ways to teach kids to behave ethically and responsibly in representing themselves online, how the ability to be anonymous can change their behavior, and how they can explore different identities in ways that are healthy.

Session 5 – Digital Footprint & Reputation

When kids share online, they are building a digital footprint of information. Explore how even the youngest students can learn about digital footprints, what's okay and not okay to share, and the public and permanent nature of the internet. Identify ways you can teach students to pause and think online, respect the privacy of others, and build digital footprints they are proud of.

Session 6 – Relationships & Communication

Is digital media helping or hurting interpersonal communication? Explore the pros and cons of digital communication with regard to empathy, attention, and relationships. Evaluate ways you can help students understand the importance of audience, purpose, and tone when communicating online, and how they can use qualities of good interpersonal communication like problem-solving, listening, and respect.

Session 7 – Cyberbullying & Digital Drama

What is cyberbullying? How does it compare to face-to-face bullying? Learn about cyberbullying in elementary school, including how prevalent it is, how it occurs, and what to do about it. Explore ways you can help students be kind, respectful, and empathetic, how to be upstanders, and how to build positive communities of care and respect.

Session 8 – Information Literacy

Kids have information at their fingertips, yet finding high-quality online sources and evaluating the trustworthiness of online information is challenging. Discover ways to integrate information literacy in your classroom so that students find and evaluate relevant information, sift out misinformation, and start to recognize online advertising.

Session 9 – Creative Credit & Copyright

Digital tools allow kids to create and share in the classroom and beyond to a broad, public audience. Learn about copyright and fair use, and what our rights and responsibilities are as creators. Explore ways to teach students about respecting copyright by avoiding plagiarism and citing sources, but also about their rights to fair use and to get credit for their own work.

Session 10 – Engaging Families in Digital Citizenship

Parents look to schools for advice to guide their kids in a media-saturated world. Learn how to take a whole-community approach to digital citizenship by engaging parents and families. Explore Connecting Families, Common Sense Education's free parent engagement program, which includes multiple ways to support the unique needs of your parent population.

For more information, click http://bit.ly/digcitizenshipelemschool or call Michael Weinraub at 202-706-5760.