

CITIZENSHIP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Many of the hallmarks of any good citizen — from being respectful and responsible to doing what's right — are key elements of digital citizenship as well. But students must learn how to apply these tried and true qualities to the realities of the digital age.

A GOOD CITIZEN...

1 Advocates for equal human rights for all.



2 Treats others courteously and never bullies.

3 Does not steal or damage others' property or persons.

4 Communicates clearly, respectfully and with empathy.

5 Actively pursues an education and develops habits for lifelong learning.

6 Spends and manages money responsibly.

7 Upholds basic human rights of privacy, freedom of speech, etc.

8 Protects self and others from harm.

9 Proactively promotes their own physical and mental health.

A GOOD DIGITAL CITIZEN...

Advocates for equal digital rights and access for all.

U.S. citizens with internet access at home:



Treats others with respect in online spaces and never cyberbullies.



88% of social media-using teens have witnessed someone being mean or cruel.

Does not steal or damage others' digital work, identity or property.



The average teen's media player contains 800 illegally downloaded or shared songs.

Makes appropriate decisions when communicating through a variety of digital channels.

SIX MILLION teens report that they have received sexually suggestive images from someone they know.

Uses digital tools to advance their learning and keeps up with changing technologies.

Working Americans who use digital tools on the job:



Makes responsible online purchasing decisions and protects their payment information.



A typical teen reports having lost an average of \$400 to cybercrime.

Upholds basic human rights in all digital forums.

26% of U.S. high school teachers believe websites should not publish freely without "government approval."

CENSORED

Protects personal information from outside forces that might cause harm.

54% of teens frequently have private online conversations with strangers.

Proactively limits health risks of technology, from physical to psychological.



8% of youth ages 8-18 are addicted to video games.

SOURCES: Pew Research, Microsoft, Symantec, Association for Psychological Science

GREAT LINKS

USE THESE SITES TO HELP YOU FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION.



www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/parents



www.cyberwise.org/#!/parents/cfpr



www.netsmartz.org/parents



mssepp.blogspot.com/2013/12/internet-safety-cheat-sheet.html

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP TIPS FOR PARENTS

A digital citizen is someone who is able to understand and fully participate in the digital world. They have the technical and social skills that enable a person to be successful and safe.



Developing Digital Citizens at Home

The Internet is a wonderful place for learning and entertainment. However, like the world around us, it can pose dangers to your child, your computer and your personal data.

REMAIN POSITIVELY ENGAGED

Know the online environments your children use. Sit and discuss their online life on a regular basis. Show interest in their online communities and friends. React constructively when inappropriate material is encountered. Expand your children's online experience and their autonomy when developmentally appropriate. Help them develop safe and secure online behavior and good decision making. Be a good role model.

KEEP A CLEAN MACHINE

Safety and security start with protecting your computer with security software (anti-virus and anti-spyware) that is set to update automatically. Keep your web browser and software up to date, and back up important files on a regular basis. Keep your computer in an open area.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Check the privacy settings available on the social networking sites and devices your children use. Decide together which settings to use in order to provide the proper amount of protection for your child.

TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Help your children identify safe, credible web sites and digital content. Teach them to be cautious before clicking on, downloading, posting, and uploading content.



EXPLAIN THE IMPLICATIONS

Help your children understand the public nature of the internet. Explain the risk and benefits. Emphasize any digital info they share, such as emails, photos, or videos, can easily be copied and pasted elsewhere, and is almost impossible to recover. Digital info has the possibility of damaging your reputation, friendships and future prospects.

HELP YOUR CHILDREN BE GOOD DIGITAL CITIZENS

Remind your children to be good digital friends, by respecting personal information of friends and family, and not sharing anything about others that is potentially embarrassing or hurtful.

EMPOWER & ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN

Work with your children to develop strategies such as bullying, unwanted digital contact, or hurtful comments. When problems arise, develop strategies of talking to a trusted adult, non-retaliation, calmly resolving with the person, blocking the person, or filing a complaint. Encourage children to help other friends if they are making poor choices or being harmed. If your child's behavior changes, be alert for reasons why.

"Raising Digital Citizens | StaySafeOnline.org."

A Few Statistics about Teens and Social Media

- 90% of teens have used some form of social media
- 75% of teens report having a profile on a social networking site
- 87% of youth have reported witnessing cyberbullying based on appearance, race, religion, or sexual identity
- 49% of youth report regretting something they have posted
- In 2013, 8% of 16-24 year-olds reported being rejected for a job based on pictures or comments on their social media accounts

(<http://mcafee.com/us/about/news/2014/q2/20140603-01.aspx> and <https://ondivceresearch.com/blog> and www.growingwireless.com/get-the-facts/quick-facts)

