

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



COURSE OVERVIEW

Students in middle school are using the immense power of digital media to explore, connect, create, and learn in ways never before imagined. With this power, young people have extraordinary opportunities, yet they face potential pitfalls like cyberbullying, online oversharing, plagiarism, trouble evaluating online sources, and more. These issues underscore the need for students to learn – and for teachers to teach – digital citizenship. This course is designed to improve your understanding of tweens’ digital lives, introduce you to eight core topics of digital citizenship, and equip you with high-quality resources to teach digital citizenship in your middle school classroom.

COURSE GOALS

- Develop an accurate picture of the diverse lives of tweens and teens, including their motivations, behaviors, and understandings
- 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.



www.commonsense.org/educators



www.pepperpd.com



www.publicconsultinggroup.com/education

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 tweens and teens keep their online data safe and secure? Explore common risks to personal data online, including data mining and tracking, online scams, and identity theft. Learn how to help students keep their information safe and secure by protecting their information, understanding privacy policies, and identifying ways companies collect and use their personal information.

Session 3 – Internet Safety

As students communicate with others (known and unknown) online, there is potential for risky behavior. Examine how and why some youth engage in risky online talk as well as who they are engaging with. Discover research-based ways to support students to make informed, healthy choices in their online interactions.

Session 4 – Self-Image & Identity

How has the internet changed the way tweens develop their identity and concept of self? Gain a richer picture of the interplay between online and offline identities in the context of the stages of identity development.

Session 5 – Digital Footprint & Reputation

What tweens and teens share in their digital lives can affect their reputation ... now and in the future. Learn how to help students self-reflect before they self-reveal, and how to build positive digital footprints they are proud of.

Session 6 – Relationships & Communication

Is digital media helping or hurting interpersonal communication? How are young people developing healthy relationships in an age of digital sharing? Explore ways to encourage students to communicate and connect in positive ways and develop healthy relationships.

Session 7 – Cyberbullying & Digital Drama

What is cyberbullying? How does it compare to face-to-face bullying or harassment? Learn what teachers and students can do to address digital drama, move from being bystanders to becoming upstanders, and build a positive community of care and respect.

Session 8 – Information Literacy

Students 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 by analyzing the reliability and credibility of online sources.

Session 9 – Creative Credit & Copyright

More than ever before, students are using digital tools to create, remix and share content with a wide audience. Learn how to empower them as creators, while avoiding plagiarism and giving credit where credit is due. Deepen your understanding of copyright and fair use, and learn how to develop students as responsible media creators.

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/digcitizenshipmiddleschool> or call Michael Weinraub at 202-706-5760.