

Pine Grove Middle School
Grade 7 Digital Citizenship
Long Range Plans 2017-2018
Teacher: Mrs. Helen Payette

Program Philosophy:

Today, students and parents alike use technology on a regular basis. The development of new digital technology, such as social media and online commerce, has made understanding these technologies and their use an essential part of education. Students are now citizens in a new, online realm which is developing very quickly, bringing with it both benefits and problems. The course will consider many aspects of this online world.

Objectives:

Students today have access to powerful technological tools but limited guidance in how to use these tools in a safe and ethical way. This course will focus on providing structures for students to use when they engage in activities online.

Areas of Study:

Digital Citizenship is divided into nine specific areas as follows:

- Digital Access
- Digital Commerce
- Digital Communication
- Digital Literacy
- Digital Etiquette
- Digital Law
- Digital Rights and Responsibilities
- Digital Health and Wellness
- Digital Security

The core of the program will be the middle school lessons from “Common Sense Media” found at www.common sense media.org. Lessons will take one or two periods, depending upon how many extension activities are utilized. The lessons are as follows:

UNIT 1 (September to December)

1. **Digital Life 101:** Students are introduced to the 24/7, social nature of digital media and technologies, and gain basic vocabulary and knowledge for discussing the media landscape
2. **Strategic Searching:** Students learn that to conduct effective and efficient online searches, they must use a variety of searching strategies.
3. **Scams and Schemes:** Students learn strategies for guarding against identity theft and scams that try to access their private information online
4. **Cyberbullying – Be Upstanding:** Students learn about the difference between being a passive bystander versus a brave upstander in cyberbullying situations.
5. **A Creator’s Rights:** Students are introduced to copyright, fair use, and the rights they have as creators.

UNIT 2 (January to March)

1. **My Media:** Students review their media habits and the array of media they use on a weekly basis, and reflect on the role of digital media in their lives.

2. **A Creator's Responsibilities:** Students reflect on their responsibilities as creators and users of creative work
3. **Safe Online Talk:** While acknowledging the benefits of online talk and messaging, students learn how to handle situations or online behavior which may make them feel uncomfortable.
4. **Which Me Should I Be?:** Students learn that presenting themselves in different ways online carries both benefits and risks.
5. **Gender Stereotypes Online:** Students analyze a "Dress Up Your Avatar" feature of a virtual world for kids for evidence of stereotypes about boys and girls.

UNIT 3 (April to June)

1. **Trillion Dollar Footprint:** Students learn that they have a digital footprint and that this information can be searched, copied and passed on, but that they can take some control based on what they post online.
2. **Identifying High-Quality Sites:** Students learn that anyone can publish on the Web, so not all sites are equally trustworthy.
3. **The Reality of Digital Drama:** Students draw connections between young teens' perceptions of digital drama and stereotypes of men and women on reality TV.
4. **Cyberbullying – Crossing the Line:** Students learn to distinguish good-natured teasing from cyberbullying.
5. **Rework, Reuse, Remix:** Students expand their understanding of fair use, apply it to case studies, and create an original work of fair use.

During these lessons discussions will also include the areas of Health and Wellness and Digital Access.

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Materials: This year students will be doing all work through the Google Classroom platform. This means that resources and assignments will be available to students through both the computer and their digital devices; they will not need to be at school to access Google Classroom.

Evaluation:

Assignments Participation100%

Marks will be based on the homework questions, assignment work and participation during classes. Students will not lose marks for work missed during classes they did not attend.