Digital Citizenship Curriculum

Children are growing up with the power of digital media and technology to explore, connect, create, and learn in new ways. With this power, young people have great opportunities, but they also face challenges and dilemmas. Schools are dealing with the ramifications, including issues such as online safety, cyberbullying, privacy, hate speech, misinformation, and digital distraction. To address these issues, schools are creating a positive culture around media and technology by incorporating digital citizenship education as part of their curricula.

Digital citizenship is the responsible use of technology to learn, create, and participate.

Common Sense's Digital Citizenship Curriculum addresses critical issues facing children in a fast-changing world of media and technology. The innovative lessons teach students to think critically and develop the habits of mind to navigate digital dilemmas in their everyday lives. It was created in collaboration with Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, **guided by research** with thousands of educators and parents. The Digital Citizenship Curriculum:

- **Is flexible and easy to implement.** The curriculum includes 73 lessons across 13 grades (for ages 5 to 18), with 32 videos. Grades 2–12 include six lessons per year, and K–1 include three lessons per year. The lessons range from 30 minutes (K–2) to 45 minutes (grades 3–8) to 50 minutes (grades 9–12).

- **Addresses six core topics of digital citizenship.** The core topics, introduced on the next page, are based on the latest research on children, media, and technology.

- **Teaches skills and habits of mind.** The lessons teach the skills and habits of mind students need to stay safe, think critically, and take control of their digital lives.

- **Is developmentally engaging.** From characters and song videos for primary schoolers to digital dilemma scenarios and "Teen Voices" videos for secondary schoolers, complex topics are addressed in appropriate and engaging ways. Select lessons also have accompanying interactive games and extension activities.

- **Is available in Spanish.** All student materials and parent resources are available in Spanish for English-language learners.

- **Includes family engagement resources.** Tip sheets, advice, and turnkey presentations are included to educate families. All parent materials are available in Spanish, and select materials are available in Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

- **Aligns with U.S. education standards:** These include Common Core (ELA), ISTE, CASEL, AASL, and TEKS.

- **Supports E-rate compliance.** The curriculum can be used as a criterion for CIPA compliance for E-rate.

- **Provides training resources.** The curriculum includes online professional development resources such as self-paced trainings and webinars.

The Digital Citizenship Curriculum is available to educators and schools for free, thanks to the generous support of our **funders**. Schools can use this program to bring students, families, and educators together in a whole-community approach to create a positive culture around media and technology.

6 Core Topics of Digital Citizenship

MEDIA BALANCE & WELL-BEING

We find balance in our digital lives.

PRIVACY & SECURITY

We care about everyone's privacy.

DIGITAL FOOTPRINT & IDENTITY

We define who we are.

RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATION

We know the power of words & actions.

CYBERBULLYING, DIGITAL DRAMA & HATE SPEECH

We are kind & courageous.

NEWS & MEDIA LITERACY

We are critical thinkers & creators.

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Topic Key:	Media Balance & Well-Being	Privacy & Security	Digital Footprint & Identity	Relationships & Communication	Cyberbullying, Digital Drama, & Hate Speech	News & Media Literacy

		Date/Teacher	Lesson Completed
K	**Media Balance Is Important** *How do we find a happy balance between our online and offline activities?*		☐
	Pause for People *How do you say goodbye to technology when you don't want to?*		☐
	Safety in My Online Neighborhood *How do you go places safely online?*		☐
1	**Pause & Think Online** *How can we be safe, responsible, and respectful online?*		☐
	How Technology Makes You Feel *Why is it important to listen to your feelings when using technology?*		☐
	Internet Traffic Light *How do you stay safe when visiting a website or app?*		☐
2	**We the Digital Citizens** *How can we be good digital citizens?*		☐
	Device-Free Moments *Why is it important that we have device-free moments in our lives?*		☐
	That's Private! *What kinds of information should I keep to myself when I use the internet?*		☐
	Digital Trails *What information is OK to have in your digital footprint?*		☐
	Who Is in Your Online Community? *How are we all part of an online community?*		☐
	Putting a STOP to Online Meanness *What should you do if someone is mean to you online?*		☐
	Let's Give Credit! *How can you give credit for other people's work?*		☐

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3	**Your Rings of Responsibility** *How do digital citizens take responsibility for themselves, their communities, and their world?* ▶		☐
	Password Power-Up *How can a strong password help protect your privacy?*		☐
	This Is Me *How does what I post online affect my identity?*		☐
	Our Digital Citizenship Pledge *What makes a strong online community?*		☐
	The Power of Words *What should you do when someone uses mean or hurtful language on the internet?* ▶		☐
	Is Seeing Believing? *Why do people alter digital photos and videos?*		☐
4	**My Media Choices** *What makes a healthy media choice?*		☐
	Private and Personal Information *What information about you is OK to share online?* ▶		☐
	Our Online Tracks *How does our online activity affect the digital footprints of ourselves and others?*		☐
	Keeping Games Fun and Friendly *How can I be positive and have fun while playing online games, and help others to do the same?* ▶		☐
	Be a Super Digital Citizen *How can we be upstanders when we see cyberbullying?* ▶		☐
	A Creator's Rights and Responsibilities *What rights and responsibilities do you have as a creator?*		☐
5	**Finding My Media Balance** *What does media balance mean for me?* ▶		☐
	You Won't Believe This! *What is clickbait, and how can you avoid it?*		☐
	Beyond Gender Stereotypes *How do gender stereotypes shape our experiences online?*		☐
	Digital Friendships *How do you keep online friendships safe?*		☐
	Is It Cyberbullying? *What is cyberbullying, and what can you do to stop it?* ▶		☐
	Reading News Online *What are the important parts of an online news article?* ▶		☐

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6		**Finding Balance in a Digital World** *How do we balance digital media use in our lives?* ▶		☐
		Don't Feed the Phish *How can you protect yourself from phishing?*		☐
		Who Are You Online? *What are the benefits and drawbacks of presenting yourself in different ways online?* ▶		☐
		Chatting Safely Online *How do you chat safely with people you meet online?* ▶		☐
		Digital Drama Unplugged *How can you de-escalate digital drama so it doesn't go too far?* ▶		☐
		Finding Credible News *How do we find credible information on the internet?*		☐
7		**My Media Use: A Personal Challenge** *What is your strategy for finding media balance?*		☐
		Big, Big Data *How do companies collect and use data about you?*		☐
		The Power of Digital Footprints *What is a digital footprint, and what does yours convey?* ▶		☐
		My Social Media Life *How does social media affect our relationships?* ▶		☐
		Upstanders and Allies: Taking Action Against Cyberbullying *How can you respond when cyberbullying occurs?*		☐
		The Four Factors of Fair Use *What rights to fair use do you have as a creator?*		☐
8		**Digital Media and Your Brain** *How does digital media try to hook you, and what can you do about it?* ▶		☐
		Being Aware of What You Share *How can you protect your privacy when you're online?*		☐
		Social Media and Digital Footprints: Our Responsibilities *How does using social media affect our digital footprints?* ▶		☐
		Sexting and Relationships *What are the risks and potential consequences of sexting?* ▶		☐
		Responding to Online Hate Speech *How should you respond to online hate speech?*		☐
		This Just In! *How should we react to breaking news?*		☐

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9	**My Digital Life Is Like ...** *What is the role of digital media in our lives?*		☐
	The Big Data Dilemma *What are the benefits and drawbacks of online tracking?*		☐
	Protecting Online Reputations *How can you respect the privacy of others online?*		☐
	Chatting and Red Flags *How can you tell when an online relationship is risky?*		☐
	What You Send in "That Moment When ..." *How can we act with empathy and positivity when we're online?*		☐
	Hoaxes and Fakes *How can you avoid being fooled by fake videos and other information online?*		☐
10	**Social Media and How You Feel** *How can you use social media in a way that feels positive and healthy?*		☐
	Risk Check for New Tech *What privacy risks do new technologies present, and how do we decide if they're worth it?*		☐
	Curated Lives *How can I create a social media presence that represents the real me?* ▶		☐
	Rewarding Relationships *How can I make sure my relationships are positive and healthy?* ▶		☐
	Countering Hate Speech Online *How can we counter online hate speech and xenophobia?* ▶		☐
	Challenging Confirmation Bias *How can we challenge our own confirmation bias?*		☐
11	**Can Media Be Addictive?** *Are we addicted to our devices, and, if so, are companies to blame?*		☐
	How Young Is Too Young for Social Media? *At what age should people be allowed to use social media?* ▶		☐
	Who's Looking at Your Digital Footprint? *How can information you post online affect your future opportunities?*		☐
	Connecting with Digital Audiences *How can we use code-switching to enhance our communication with online audiences?*		☐
	Online Disinhibition and Cyberbullying *How does online disinhibition sometimes lead to cyberbullying?* ▶		☐
	Clicks for Cash *How does internet advertising contribute to the spread of misinformation?*		☐

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12			
	The Health Effects of Screen Time *Can screen time be bad for us?* ▶		☐
	Debating the Privacy Line *Should the government have access to all your social media and cellphone data?*		☐
	The Change You Want to See *How can you create a digital footprint that showcases your purpose?*		☐
	We Are Civil Communicators *How can we communicate with civility online?* ▶		☐
	Should Online Hate Speech Be Censored? *Should online hate speech be censored?*		☐
	Filter Bubble Trouble *How can filter bubbles limit the information we're exposed to?*		☐