GUIDE TO
DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP FOR STUDENTS

In today's world our children are constantly surrounded by opportunities to engage with various technologies and digital tools. This guide will help you to have a stronger understanding of what your child's experience may be like and give you some recommendations to consider when thinking about how to support them.

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> *You are your child's best advocate for staying safe online and learning to be a digital citizen.*
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- "Increased connectivity also increases the importance of teaching learners how to become responsible digital citizens. We need to guide the development of competencies to use technology in ways that are meaningful, productive, respectful, and safe." (U.S. Dept of Ed, 2017)

- "95% of teens now report they have a smartphone or access to one. These mobile connections are in turn fueling more-persistent online activities: 45% of teens now say they are online on a near-constant basis." (Pew Research Center, 2018)

Recommendations for Using Technology for Summer Enrichment

MAKE SURE THERE IS OPEN COMMUNICATION ABOUT TECHNOLOGY.
It is important that your child knows they can come to you with questions or concerns they might come across while spending time online.

LOOK INTO SETTING PARENTAL CONTROLS.
Different tools and platforms have different options for parental control. Using these tools can set you and your child up for success by still allowing them to explore in a safe way.

COMMIT TO SAFE PRACTICES ONLINE AS A FAMILY.
Resources like this Safety Pledge (a collaboration between the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and the White House) can facilitate a conversation between you and your child about being a good digital citizen.

TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT CYBERBULLYING.
Ensuring your child has a strong understanding of what cyberbullying is can empower them to know how to get help if they are being bullied online and how to treat others with respect on social media platforms.

CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS AROUND TECHNOLOGY ACCESS.
As a guardian, you make the choice about when your child has access to different types of technology at home. Initiatives such as "Wait Until 8th," which encourages parents to wait until 8th grade to get their child a smartphone, can support you in thinking through all your different options, including at which age your child should start using a smartphone.

Additional Resources

- Using Technology to Support Learning at Home: SIMPLE TIPS FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

- What is Digital Citizenship Video (Common Sense)

- What is Cyberbullying? (stopbullying.gov)

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