



Digital Citizenship, Cyber Safety, and Responsible Use



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The West Ada School District's mission is "Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Challenges". Integral to this mission is teaching our students digital citizenship. Digital Citizenship refers to the concept of using technology resources appropriately, ranging from etiquette and communication skills, to copyright issues and the legal implications of one's actions.

West Ada expects that all students demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity, and self-discipline in face-to-face environments as well as online and in digital environments.

West Ada takes student safety very seriously. West Ada provides safeguards for Internet access, and all district Internet access is filtered as much as possible to prevent access to inappropriate material on the web while balancing student access to information.

The district Internet access is in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act.

Policy Links

The following policies apply to students in our district:

- Policy 502.90 Bullying
- Policy 1001.3 Network, Computer, Electronic Information Systems, and Internet Usage
- Policy 1001.4 Email and Electronic Use
- Student Handbooks

Resource Links

Links and resources for parents and students to learn more about digital citizenship:



Lili Digital Citizenship



Common Sense Media



Digital Literacy.gov

For additional information, videos, and links to resources go to:

<http://www.westada.org/domain/5165>

Tips for Understanding Digital Citizenship

Be computer literate: take classes, read articles and books, ask librarians. Find out about the websites and social networking services your kids use. Be aware of his or her “virtual friends.” Keep anti-virus, anti-spyware and adware software current, and teach your kids about their responsibility to back up their data.

Keep the computer in a common area, and spend time online with your kids: search topics and talk about the results. Ask your kids, “How do you know this is true?” Ask them, “Who owns this information (or data or music or photo)?” How does that change what you might do with it? AND—model that same ethical, responsible, curious, fact-checking behavior as you use cell phone or other mobile devices as well.

Create posts and albums using social media, and create web-based media projects together. Talk about who you are sharing this digital content with, and why you are or are *not* making it available to everybody on the Internet. Talk about your online privacy concerns and choices.

Have conversations about the reality of the Internet—the good, the bad, and the shades of gray—and make sure your child is comfortable telling you if he/she encounters something that is uncomfortable. Keep the communication open and non-judgmental.

When you purchase goods or services online, talk through the process with your kids. Teach them how to find good deals and use secure websites for the purchases. Talk to them about why you are making those decisions about which sites to use, and how to keep their identities and credit card information secure.

Talk to your child’s friends’ parents [particularly if your child is spending time at the friend’s house] to find out about the Internet rules in their houses. Talk to your children about what choices they might have if other kids are not following the same rules of online use that your family expects.

Conclusion...

Finally, just like you do for any other parenting issues, listen to your own internal radar, and intervene appropriately with your child, and work with your school or local law enforcement if something needs to be addressed. As parents we all try to teach our kids to respect themselves and others, to be responsible, law-abiding and considerate citizens of our community, and to make safe, sensible decisions. Digital citizenship is about those same things