

The DCP

TIPS AND STRATEGIES FOR GETTING YOUR SCHOOL'S DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP PROJECT STARTED



What is Digital Citizenship?

The world is changing. Students are changing. Where does Digital Citizenship fit in?...

Do you know what it means to be a digital citizen? "As schools and society become more inundated with digital technology, there needs to be a structure that they can teach students (and parents) how to act with respect to this technology" (Ribble & Bailey, 2007). The school board is working on changing the technology policy so that teachers and students have different levels of access. While we are moving towards this direction we recognize that teachers will need professional development on different areas of digital citizenship. This is where the Digital Citizenship Project (DCP) will fit in. The project will be ongoing and require the involvement of all members of the school community including students, teachers, administration, support staff, community

members and parents. The philosophical framework that we are basing our program stems from Ribble & Bailey's 2007 book, "Digital Citizenship in Schools" (every school will be receiving one copy to get you started). According to Ribble & Bailey (2007) "Digital citizenship can be described as the norms for appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use. As a way of understanding the complexity of digital citizenship and the issues of technology use, abuse, and misuse, the following nine elements have been identified that make up Digital Citizenship (DC)..."

Nine Elements of DC

1. Digital Access: Full electronic participation in society.
2. Digital Commerce: The buying and selling of goods online.
3. Digital Communication: The electronic exchange of information.
4. Digital Literacy: The capability to use digital technology and knowing when and how to use it.
5. Digital Etiquette: The standards of conduct expected by other digital technology users.
6. Digital Law: The legal rights and restrictions governing technology use.
7. Digital Rights and Responsibilities: The privileges and freedoms extended to all digital technology users, and the behavioral expectations that come with them.
8. Digital Health and Wellness: The elements of physical and psychological well-being related to digital technology use.
9. Digital Security: The precautions that all technology users must take to guarantee their personal safety and the security of their network.

DCP PLAN FOR



2010

Digital Citizenship is not a set of strict rules, instead it is a way to understand the challenges facing all technology users. The nine elements are a starting point for the challenges facing all technology users (Ribble & Bailey, 2007). The DCP will eventually be extended as part of the curriculum for students in the classroom. Some may already be teaching about the various topics. This year's focus for the DCP will be to prepare all the teachers, administration and staff members of the Lester B. Pearson School Board with the basic understanding of all the elements involved in being a digital citizen. We all need to understand that technology is not going to disappear, in fact the world will only become more digital, therefore we all need to learn how to be responsible digital citizens.



Photo: Rebecca Trump
Riverdale High School

Tips and Strategies for Schools to get started with their DCP...

Now that you have been introduced to what digital citizenship is, you must be wondering...now what? Here is a guide with tips and strategies that you can use at your school to get started:

When you get back to your school:

1. Model the meeting from today at your staff meeting (you will have access to the PowerPoint, resources and activities that we used today on the portal under the Digital Citizenship community).
2. Create a DCP committee to address your school's plan on how you will provide PD to teachers and staff at your school (should include students/staff and Administration).

Note: You may want to eventually have a student led DCP committee so that students take also take ownership of the initiative.

Some tips for achieving your school goals:

- ★ Hold a digital citizenship literacy week-month- or day where you have students and the DCP committee members organize PD during lunchtime in the staff room/or a classroom for teachers to learn about different topics relating to digital citizenship.
- ★ For schools with mini days- work off days have students and teachers provide PD on different topics relating to digital citizenship.
- ★ During every staff meeting hold a 10-15 minute presentation about different topics relating to digital citizenship (e.g. each meeting held can offer a small presentation, information

session or even a scenario on one of the nine elements. You can also have the DCP organize scenarios of actual occurrences that may have or could take place in your school. Have staff discuss how these issues could be dealt with the nine elements of digital citizenship in mind.

★ Have the administration act out scenarios (based on the nine elements) at a staff meeting and have staff break out into groups and discuss how they would address the scenarios. Have the staff come up with which element it would address and so on...

★ Play a game of DCP tag with teachers at your school - Example of the game could include:

Game starts with nine teachers who all need to understand one of the nine elements (each teacher covers one of the elements). First group of nine teachers will then go out and tag two more teachers to pass on their knowledge of that element. The two next teachers will then need to tag two more teachers and pass on their acquired knowledge and so on. If motivated teachers are welcome to then continue the game by learning about different elements. Example of how the game can be played:

Teacher 1 (sees teacher 2): "Tag, you have been digitized and DCP'ed on! You must pass on this knowledge to two more people. (Teacher one then explains one of the elements and how it can apply to their classroom situation)....

Teacher number two must now look for two more teachers and so on and so forth. The goal of this game is to have all the teachers tagged with an understanding of all nine elements.

(Students could also play this game at the school level)

Resources to help you get started

Every school will receive one copy of Ribble & Bailey's, 2007 book "**Digital Citizenship in Schools**" This book has all the information you need to get started with a digital citizenship plan in your school. **Chapter 3** is especially useful to get started "**Creating a Digital Citizenship Program.**"

www.digitalcitizenship.net

Great site to get more information on the nine elements of digital citizenship. Created by Michael Ribble

www.cybersmartcurriculum.org

Unbelievable resource filled with lesson plans and handouts from grade one to eleven. Definitely check out the **k-12 scope and sequence** chart to see what students should be addressing at each level.

www.digizen.org

This website is filled with information and ready made lessons for teachers. There are handouts that can be given to teachers and parents examining different aspects of digital citizenship.

www.thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca

Canadian resource for teachers, students and parents. Filled with valuable information to help teachers and parents learn more about what is out there.

References:

Ribble & Bailey (2007) Digital Citizenship in Schools. ISTE.



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