

The Importance of Addressing Digital Citizenship

Responsible Use

31% of teens send and receive more than 100 text messages per day (Lenhart, 2010)!

To address responsible use in the classroom, teachers should still seek out opportunities to address issues such as copyright, plagiarism, and software licensing. However, in today's increasingly digital world, teachers may also want to address issues related to intellectual property, use of free tools and resources, archiving of social networking activity, and privacy. Consider addressing the use of social networks, microblogs, professional networks, and mobile devices when discussing responsible use.

Positive Attitudes

Games can be used to promote girls' positive attitudes towards technology, (Van Eck, 2006).

Thoughtfully transitioning students' use of technology from home to school can help to explicitly teach students how they can use technology for learning. While technology use is often focused on productivity, it may be helpful to create experiences for students to engage with technology on deeper levels—building positive experiences and providing opportunities for students to reflect on what they are learning while utilizing digital tools.

Lifelong Learning

Millennials will use social networking for community, economic, and personal gain (Quitney & Rainie, 2010). As millennials transition into the work force, we may observe them develop new ways of staying connected and engaging in lifelong learning. As they transition into being productive adults they will need to understand how to effectively use digital tools for improving their community, practicing financial literacy, and exploring ways to personally and professionally grow.

Leadership

Younger and older students are engaging in global awareness and advocacy (Noddings, 2005). With access to new and innovative digital tools, students of all ages are taking on opportunities to engage with, and advocate for, persons on a global level. They are seeking out ways to contribute to the lives of others and using their technology prowess to develop connections worldwide.

References

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