SCHOOL LEADER LEARNING: TECHNOLOGY ENABLED LEARNING AND LEADING

OSAPAC CCPALO

> *"Digital citizenship isn't just about recognizing and dealing with online hazards. It's about building safe spaces & communities, understanding how to manage personal information, and about being Internet savvy - using your online presence to grow & shape your world in a safe, creative way, and inspiring others to do the same." Digizen*

PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

The Big Idea

There are many definitions of digital citizenship. Educators are aware of the issues attached to the use of the Internet such as privacy and safety. Cyberbullying and other online safety issues have been the focus of school wide digital citizenship initiatives. As a school leader, it is important to broaden the conversation on digital citizenship to include the impact of technology use throughout the school.

Key Questions

1. What is Digital Citizenship? Why is it Important?
2. How is a culture of digital citizenship cultivated?
3. How can schools honour the student voice?
4. How do digital citizenship and collaboration support student development?

Need To Know

1. Digital Leaders develop digital citizenship skills in themselves and others
2. Administrators need to develop a citizenship culture.
3. Encourage engagement by enabling student voice.
4. Celebrate collaboration between communities.

Go Deeper

1. WHAT IS DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND DIGITAL LEADERSHIP?

MAKE THE CONNECTION

OSAPAC Digital Citizenship Resource Links

There are many different definitions of digital citizenship, but at the core of each is the idea of students being citizens who make productive, positive, and responsible contributions as members of a local, global or digital community.

"For students today, "leadership" isn't about learning to take charge. It's about learning how to make decisions for yourself, take considered actions and set boundaries" (Matt Smith). It is about developing a credible, reliable, and honest "digital footprint" that communicates integrity and trustworthiness.

Encouraging the use of current and relevant technologies empowers students to become positive digital citizens and leaders. Passion for learning and motivation around social action are fostered through online collaboration and creation. Students encounter other online leaders and emulate their work. They bring an awareness about issues in the world to others. Digital leaders are aware of what digital citizenship is, and how to ensure their contribution is positive and helpful to the world.

On the next page is one example of digital leadership in action.

http://bit.ly/sincerecomp

2. DEVELOPING A CITIZENSHIP CULTURE

All schools work at developing a respectful school culture. Ontario's focus on character development aims "to develop school environments in which all people – students, teachers, administrators and support staff – treat each other with care and respect. This initiative is based on four essential components: academic achievement, character development, citizenship development and respect for diversity" (Ministry Of Education Ontario, 2008).

The development of face-to-face citizenship does not change when students and teachers move to online learning spaces. Citizenship, on or off-line, must be part of the school culture and consistent with the values of the school. Conversations about what is being done online should be handled in the same way as conversations about what happens in the playground, classrooms, and hallways of your school. Are students treating each other respectfully by listening carefully and responding with care? Do students treat others kindly and without judgment?

Consider co-creating a set of positively framed principles that support the values of your school to be used face-to-face and online with your school community.

Visit 21st Century Teaching Learning for more.

3. PROMOTING STUDENT VOICE

Students want to have a voice in their learning. They want to contribute to the knowledge of the world and provide their perspectives. Increasingly, technology is a means by which students are able to share their thinking and creations. However, there remains a disconnect between students' lives outside-of-school and inside-of-school. Outside of school, students engage in online communities where they create media texts, contribute to conversations, and realize they are contributing content that has meaning and value. Will Richardson, author of *Why School?: How Education Must Change When Learning and Information Are Everywhere,* states, "Our students are capable of doing authentic work that adds to the abundance in ways that can make the world a better, richer place".

Student engagement in learning comes from doing work that is valued not only by the student, but also by others in his or her community. Schools need to provide students with "rigorous and more motivating assignments and better prepare them to become more productive in our new global economy. " (Alan November).

4. COLLABORATION BETWEEN COMMUNITIES

Today's students are using technology to communicate and create with local and global audiences. Like face-to-face collaboration, online collaboration needs to be directly taught to and supported to ensure safe and responsible use. Through connected learning, students deepen their digital fluency skills, effectively employing and understanding digital tools to express ideas in appropriate contexts, as well as strengthen their digital footprint, and develop personal learning networks.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: WHAT IS OUR ROLE AS EDUCATORS? Visit:

OSSEMOOC
Ontario School and System Leaders Edtech MOOC

A focus on digital citizenship promotes the development of personal and social awareness and the overall well-being of the student. Through on-line collaboration, students begin to understand the ways in which they are the same as others, as well as the ways in which they differ. With this understanding they are learning to work effectively with different types of people. Finally, learning and working in a connected environment helps to ensure that students are prepared for the future. Although we don't know what the future holds for our students, we do know that change will be ever-present, and that students need to have the skills to manage it in a productive, safe and responsible manner.

"To survive and thrive, today's students must be digitally literate, which means being able to use and understand digital technologies and messages." --Common Sense Media
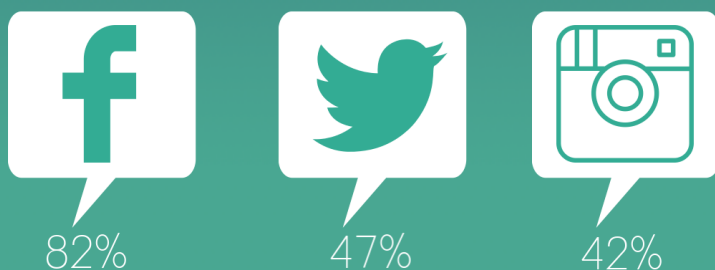
We encourage you to take items from this page and share them with staff, school council, or your community through newsletters or social media to spark conversations!

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Students Live Online

99%

99% of Canadian students access the internet outside of school.

By Grade 10, more than 85% of students have their own cell/smart phone

87
68
39

☐ Grade 10 ☐ Grade 8 ☐ Grade 6
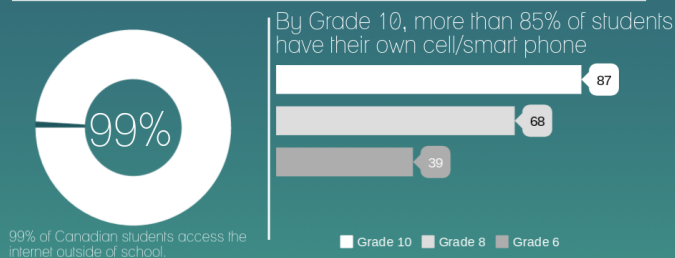
Social Media Use: Grades 7-11

82%   47%   42%

Data From "Young Canadians in a Wired World", Mediasmarts 2014 http://mediasmarts.ca/ycww/life-online

VIDEO

Digital Citizenship in Action

This video highlights two classrooms focused on digital citizenship. It features a grade 6 class learning about copyright laws and a grade 3 class learning about website credibility.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- Monitor what your child is doing on the Internet
- Keep the use of electronics confined to a central, visible area (avoid use in bedrooms)
- Know your children's passwords, follow them on social media and have discussions with them when you see something concerning
- Help your children understand the rules of copyright and ensure they are giving credit in their work.

References made in this document may be found at bit.ly/DCPart1ref

TWEETABLES

"Knowingly sharing your work with others is the simplest way to take advantage of the new social tools." (@cshirky)

"How can you make sure that every student who walks on graduation day is WELL Googled by his or her full name?" (@willrich45)

"Digital citizenship is not something taught in isolation. It is a way of being, to be integrated into all that we do." (@TanyaAvrith)

CONNECTED ONTARIO EDUCATORS ON : DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

ANDREA MICHELUTTI @MICHELUTTIA

We need to empower parents and educators to be active online to demonstrate our commitment to students that DC is important.

DAVID FIFE @DAVIDFIFEVP

We must instill in our students the traits of a good digital citizen. How to respond, critique, and interact with technology are vital skills.