Digital Citizenship Pledge

Essential Question

How do you create a positive online community?

Lesson Overview

Students will establish group norms to create a positive online community that promotes responsible and respectful digital behavior within their classroom.

Students collaborate in creating a digital citizenship pledge outlining their collective social norms for exploring in and interacting with the digital world.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to ...

- establish expectations and norms for the group related to appropriate online behavior.
- participate responsibly and respectfully in an online community.
- collaborate on a classroom motto about digital citizenship.

Materials and Preparation

- Copy the **We the Digital Citizens Pledge Student Handout**, one per group of two or three students.
- Print out one copy of the **We the Digital Citizens Pledge** as a poster for your classroom wall (which can be printed in black and white or in color, sizes 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17").

Family Resources

- Send home the **Digital Life Family Tip Sheet (Elementary School)**.

Estimated time: 45 minutes

Standards Alignment –

Common Core:

grade 3: RI.1, RI.4, RI.10, RF.4a, W.4, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.1d, SL.4, SL.6, L.3a, L.6

grade 4: RI.1, RI.4, RI.10, RF.4a, W.4, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.1d, SL.4, SL.6, L.3a, L.6

grade 5: RI.1, RI.4, RI.10, RF.4a, W.4, W.10, SL.1a, SL.1b, SL.1c, SL.1d, SL.4, SL.6, L.3a, L.6

ISTE: 1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2d, 3a-d, 4a-c, 5a-d, 6a, 6b, 6d

Key Vocabulary –

community: a group of people with a common background or shared interests

expectation: something one looks forward to or assumes will occur

digital citizen: a member of a worldwide community linked by the Internet

pledge: a promise, an oath, or a commitment

motto: a memorable phrase that a group chooses to represent itself; a slogan

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introduction

Warm-up *(5 minutes)*

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **community**.

ASK:

What are some communities that you are a part of?	Sample responses: • sports teams • religious groups • volunteer groups

DISCUSS how your class also constitutes a community.

INVITE students to explain the Key Vocabulary term **expectation,** then share the definition.

ASK:

What expectations do we have for being a part of our classroom community?	Sample responses: • treat each other kindly • be respectful • follow the rules
Why do we want our communities to have these kinds of behavior expectations?	Encourage students to reflect upon how expectations let us all know how we are supposed to interact, work, and get along with one another. Without such guidelines, people might find it difficult to have that communal spirit.

DISCUSS how participants in a community (e.g., your class) ought to agree on what's appropriate and what's expected to create a safe space (a shared set of norms and expectations) related to digital citizenship. In doing so, they will help build and maintain a culture of digital citizenship for your class's online communities.

teach 1

Expectations Brainstorm *(20 minutes)*

ASK:

Are you part of any online communities? What kinds are you a part of?	Sample responses: • gaming communities • virtual worlds (e.g., Club Penguin) • school groups (e.g., Edmodo, a blog)

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How are online communities different than offline communities? How are they similar?	Sample responses: • You may not know everyone personally in an online community. • People meet face to face offline, but people do not have in-person contact online. • People in both communities usually have similar interests or goals.
What are some examples of how you can be a good member of one of these communities?	Sample responses: • Welcome all members. • Follow the rules or guidelines of the group/community. • Encourage others to follow the community's guidelines as well.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **digital citizen**.

EXPLAIN that as members of online communities, your class is going to outline the kinds of expectations you all have for being good digital citizens.

DIVIDE the class into small groups of two or three students.

DISTRIBUTE copies of **We the Digital Citizens Pledge Student Handout**, one per small group.

REVIEW the expectations outlined on the pledge as a whole group.

INSTRUCT students to brainstorm for five minutes in their small groups about additional expectations that they feel are important for an online community. Have them fill in the last two speech bubbles on the handout.

teach 2

Classroom Collaboration *(15 minutes)*

INSTRUCT students to reassemble to share their ideas. As a whole group, decide on two additional expectations to add to the poster version of your classroom's We the Digital Citizens Pledge.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary word **motto**.

INSTRUCT students to break into their small groups again to spend five minutes creating a motto that encapsulates the class's community pledge. You may want to share examples of popular mottos/slogans, such as Nike's *"Just do it™,"* Subway's "Eat fresh™," and Apple's *"Think different™."*

GUIDE students to reassemble and share their ideas. As a group, decide on a motto for your class community. Add this motto on the poster of the classroom's We the Digital Citizens Pledge.

INVITE each student to sign the We the Digital Citizens Pledge poster to indicate his/her commitment. (Younger students can trace their hands and cut out the shape to adorn the edges of the pledge.)

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Wrap-up *(5 minutes)*

You can use these questions to assess your students' understanding of the lesson objectives. You may want to ask students to reflect in writing on one of the questions, using a journal or an online blog/wiki.

ASK:

What is a pledge?	A pledge promises a commitment by the person agreeing to it. It helps build an agreed-upon sense of community.
What are you agreeing to in signing the We the Digital Citizens Pledge?	In signing the pledge, each student is agreeing to the stated terms and is committing to being an upstanding community member, aka a digital citizen.
Which part of the digital citizenship pledge is most meaningful to you?	Answers will vary.

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WE, THE DIGITAL CITIZENS, PLEDGE TO...

COMMUNICATE RESPONSIBLY AND KINDLY WITH ONE ANOTHER.

PROTECT OUR OWN AND OTHERS' PRIVATE INFORMATION ONLINE.

STAND UP TO CYBERBULLYING.

RESPECT EACH OTHER'S IDEAS AND OPINIONS.

GIVE PROPER CREDIT WHEN WE USE OTHERS' WORK.

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_____

Digital Citizenship Pledge

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1. When you sign a pledge, you are _____.

    a) signing a letter to a friend

    b) making a promise to do something

    c) explaining why something is true

2. Why do many teachers go over classroom expectations every year?

    a) They want to build a classroom community that has common expectations.

    b) They want to have students debate the classroom rules.

    c) They want to tell students what to do.

3. Which of the following statements probably is NOT on a digital citizenship pledge?

    a) We pledge to stand up to cyberbullying.

    b) We pledge to finish all of our homework every night.

    c) We pledge to keep private information private.

Digital Citizenship Pledge

1. When you sign a pledge, you are _____ .

a) signing a letter to a friend

b) making a promise to do something

c) explaining why something is true

Answer feedback
The correct answer is **b**. A pledge is a type of promise.

2. Why do many teachers go over classroom expectations every year?

a) They want to build a classroom community that has common expectations.

b) They want to have students debate the classroom rules.

c) They want to tell students what to do.

Answer feedback
The correct answer is **a**. Groups of all sorts (classrooms, sports teams, organizations) often have agreed-upon expectations to help build communal spirit.

3. Which of the following statements probably is NOT on a digital citizenship pledge?

a) We pledge to stand up to cyberbullying.

b) We pledge to finish all of our homework every night.

c) We pledge to keep private information private.

Answer feedback
The correct answer is **b**. One expectation that digital citizens may agree upon is keeping their own and others' private information private. They may also pledge to be upstanders, not bystanders.

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GRADES 3-5

Digital Citizenship Pledge

* **DID YOU KNOW ...**

Club Penguin encourages good digital citizenship by using a special tool that stops members from swearing or sharing private information online.

Word Search

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a   c   i   e   e   a   r   y
k   p   l   e   d   g   e   t   m
j   e   e   d   e   e   l   a   l
u   e   e   d   n   p   r   i
n   t   d   u   s   a   i   a
k   a   m   n   a   a   i   m
s   n   m   p   p   n   r   i   o
n   o   l   t   a   t   i   c   o
c   m   u   k   a   r   i   o
```

pledge   junk   mail   citation   community   spam

* **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

What is a pledge? What do you pledge to do as a digital citizen?

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* **DO YOU REMEMBER ...** How you can help create a positive online community?

1. Family Activity

Part of being a good digital citizen is making sure to follow your family's values and expectations when you use the Internet. With a parent or family member, fill out Common Sense Media's Family Media Agreement (www.commonsensemedia.org/educators/parent-media-education/family-media-agreements). You can make revisions to the document as you see fit. If you and your parent agree on the terms outlined in the document, you can sign it to make it official.

2. Tech It Up!

Together, watch "Pause and Think Online" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgbZAWnOWOo). After you watch, discuss the following questions with a parent or family member: 1). What does it mean to "listen to your gut"? Can you think of a time when you listened to your gut? 2). Why is it important to feel with your heart when you're online? 3). How do you balance your time on the Internet with other activities? 4). Can you think of a situation when you would need to stand up for something or someone?

3. Common Sense Says ...

Be a good digital citizen by communicating responsibly with one another, protecting your own and others' private information online, standing up to cyberbullying, respecting others' ideas and opinions, and giving proper credit when you use others' work.

Common Sense on Digital Life

What's the Issue?

We may think of our kids' online, mobile, and technological activities as "digital life," but to them it's just life. In their world, being able to connect and communicate 24/7 from just about any location is normal – and expected! Between kindergarten and fifth grade, kids go through rapid growth in learning. From playing games on their mom or dad's cell phone, to learning how to point and click a mouse, to navigating online by themselves, kids this age are participating in a connected culture.

Why Does It Matter?

The stakes are high because our kids' technological abilities can be greater than their maturity and judgment. Having unrestricted access to information and people can result in gaining a wealth of information and experiences but also access to inappropriate content. Just as kids learn to eat properly, swim safely, or drive a car carefully, they need to know how to live in the digital world responsibly and respectfully. Their success depends on their abilities to use digital media to create, collaborate, and communicate well with others. Those who master these skills in using digital tools will benefit from the digital world's awesome power.

common sense says

Use bookmarks and safe search. Teach your child to bookmark his or her favorite sites. This way, your child is less likely to go somewhere online you don't want. Use safe search options on web browsers, such as Epic or DuckDuckGo, to make sure your child can search safely.

Consider using filtering and blocking software. Some parents find these tools to be useful to help protect younger children from accessing inappropriate content.

Have older siblings help. Have your older children help teach your younger children how to be responsible and safe online. Let the older ones know that you want them to help you protect their little brothers or sisters online.

Share wisdom. Kids often don't understand how their actions affect others. We do. We teach kids to choose their words carefully, play nicely with others, and respect their teachers. Now we have to extend those lessons to a vast, invisible world. As a parent, you can translate your values into the digital world and help kids understand the implications of their actions.

Seek balance. If our kids are going to thrive with digital media, we must balance the negative with the positive, privacy with protection. As our children grow, they need more independence and privacy. But parents have to be sure their kids know how to be safe and responsible before letting them loose.

Keep an open mind. We don't see the world the way our kids do. We don't help our kids when we judge their lives through the lens of a non-digital world. It's important for us to understand that our kids will spend much of their lives in a connected world, where everyone creates and communicates. We need to help them to enjoy it and learn from it.