

KEYS TO EARNING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY

by:

Rizalyn G. Urmatan

Teacher III, Mariveles National High School Poblacion

In today's world, where everyone seems to use technology via gadgets to do their jobs, sometimes, as a society, we forget the safety of living the traditional way of life.

We sometimes put ourselves in danger because of the modern way of life. The most affected are our students who are madly in love with using high technology and can easily get attached to using it.

Students must know how to become good digital citizens to protect themselves from the harmful effects of using the internet.

Using technology appropriately and responsibly is defined as "digital citizenship." Vicki Davis, teacher, and author, discusses the "9 Key Ps of Digital Citizenship" she teaches her students. Below are the 9Ps:

1. Password. Davis teaches students how to create secure passwords and systems/apps for creating and remembering passwords.
2. Privacy. Davis gives insights into how students can protect personal information such as addresses, phone numbers, etc.
3. Personal Information. The third P teaches students what is appropriate to share online and via what mediums.
4. Photographs. The fourth P involves geotagging, facial recognition, software, and general safety precautions.

5. Property. With the fifth P, Davis explains how to understand and obtain copyright laws from online sources.
6. Permission. The sixth P emphasizes seeking permission by citing the writer of the articles or books from online sources.
7. Protection. With the seventh P, Davis teaches students how to understand viruses, cyber threats, phishing, cyberbullying, etc.
8. Professionalism. Regarding the eighth P, Davis imparts her knowledge about how to be professional globally.
9. Personal Brand. She ensures students understand the "digital tattoo" and how to create their brand.

The success of the 9Ps is in our hands as educators. Including this knowledge in the curriculum is the first step in implementing the 9Ps. As teachers and influencers, we can start protecting our students by understanding, practicing, and being genuine models of ethical digital behavior.

In addition, earning digital citizenship in a school setting involves teaching students the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be responsible and ethical digital citizens.

Here is a step-by-step guide on how to promote and cultivate digital citizenship in a school context:

Incorporate Digital Citizenship into the Curriculum: Integrate digital citizenship topics across various subjects into the school's curriculum.

Set Clear Expectations: Establish clear and age-appropriate guidelines for responsible technology use within the school.

Promote Online Safety: Teach students about online safety, including password management, recognizing and avoiding phishing scams, and safeguarding personal information.

Media Literacy Education: Develop media literacy programs that help students critically evaluate online content, identify biases, and differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources of information.

Cyberbullying Prevention: Create a culture of respect and empathy, both online and offline, to prevent cyberbullying.

Digital Etiquette and Respect: Educate students on digital etiquette and the importance of being respectful and considerate when communicating online, whether in emails, chat messages, or social media.

Copyright and Fair Use: Discuss copyright laws and principles to help students understand how to responsibly use and share digital content while respecting the rights of creators.

8. **Privacy and Data Protection:** Teach students about online privacy and protecting their personal information.

9. **Online Reputation Management:** Help students understand that online actions can have long-term consequences on their personal and professional lives. Please encourage them to manage their online reputation carefully.

10. **Critical Thinking Skills:** Foster essential thinking skills by teaching students how to assess the credibility of online sources, identify bias, and think critically about the information they encounter online.

By implementing these strategies, schools can empower students to earn and practice digital citizenship, fostering a responsible, ethical, and safe online environment within the school community.

References:

Collaborating with school systems and communities to realize the power and promise of 21st-century learning for every student. (n.d.). Battelle for Kids.

<https://www.battelleforkids.org/>