

What is Digital Citizenship?

Being a good digital citizen within the online community includes anything from learning email etiquette to how to prevent and report cyberbullying. Digital citizenship also includes learning about safety concerns like how to protect private information and how to stay safe while communicating online.

Why is digital citizenship important?

- Digital communities are becoming more prolific, making good citizenship important for safety and order
- Personal and financial information can be easily accessed by others online
- Cyberbullying has severe consequences and can be the result of irresponsible digital citizens
- Online predators are a real threat to unassuming or naïve students
- Teaching digital citizenship contributes to a holistic approach to teaching students to be part of a community—on and offline

The Lightspeed Systems Solution

With the Lightspeed Systems LMS (My Big Campus), our MDM solution and our content filter, you can have a complete solution for safe, mobile, collaborative learning that encompasses all 9 elements of digital citizenship. Our content filter keeps students and networks safe from inappropriate content and hacking websites and our MDM allows for hierarchical policy settings that include app restrictions. My Big Campus helps schools create a collaborative community of students and teachers and boasts a site mentor who monitors activity 24/7 to ensure good digital citizenship. With our 3-in-1 solution, students can be safe and responsible citizens of their digital communities.

Together we do amazing things.

*Mike Ribble, Ed.D. and Gerald Bailey via:
http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/Nine_Elements.html

Nine elements of digital citizenship*

1. Digital Access.

As rapidly as internet access and technology have grown, socioeconomic status and geographical location still play a part in keeping some from having digital access. It's important to remember that some still face these challenges and to help take steps to ensure that digital access continues to become more accessible.

2. Digital Commerce.

Everything from groceries and toys to cars and electronics are available for purchase online. Consumers, including students, need to be informed and aware of the risks associated with online purchasing. Secure payments and sites that protect buyer information are important principles to teach.

3. Digital Communication.

With email, text messaging, video chat, and more, communication is easier than ever before. With the push of a button or the click of a mouse, sensitive information can be shared unsafely. Warning students about what is appropriate to share through digital channels can prevent embarrassing, costly, and dangerous situations.

4. Digital Literacy.

Being an informed citizen is a large part of being a responsible citizen, not to mention that the more digitally literate students are, the better prepared they'll be for the workforce or higher education. How to conduct online research, determine reliable sources, and use word processing software are all important skills.

5. Digital Etiquette.

Just like it's imperative that students learn how to appropriately conduct themselves in the classroom, on the playground, and throughout the school, they need to learn how to be appropriate while online. More than just establishing policies about what is acceptable behavior, students should be taught the importance of being respectful to their peers online and how to conduct themselves responsibly.

6. Digital Law.

With new developments come new laws and restrictions. As technology has advanced, legislation has raced to keep up, resulting in ever-evolving rules and regulations. Teachers and students need to be informed and up-to-date about what is legal and acceptable.

7. Digital Rights & Responsibilities.

Just as the citizens of many countries are afforded basic rights, those who participate in online activity are also given freedoms in their digital environment. Privacy rights and freedom of speech are often discussed and viewed as paramount.

8. Digital Health & Wellness.

Out of the world's estimated 7 billion people, 6 billion have access to mobile phones (TIME Newsfeed). Statistics like this make it clear that many of us spend hours a day looking at screens, typing on keyboards and talking on cell phones. Safe ergonomic practices and eye safety are physical concerns that should be addressed.

9. Digital Security.

We teach children to look before they cross the street, not to talk to strangers, and who to call in an emergency. Similar precautions are necessary within the digital community including how to set robust passwords, virus protection, and how to determine site security.