

Digital Citizenship Week 2016

Digital citizens know how to use their devices safely, responsibly, and respectfully.

Dear Families,

In Bend-La Pine Schools, as well as around the country, the week of October 16-22 has been designated as Digital Citizenship Week. As a parent and an educator, I know first-hand the importance of this topic and believe it is something we need to address with our children as part of their education. Digital devices are part of our society, and their presence can be both an asset and a challenge as we balance productivity, screen time, and being present in the moment with our teachers, friends and families. During this week, it is our hope that as a community we can open ourselves to learning and discussing the role that devices play in our home, school and work lives.

We have identified a digital citizenship focus for each grade level, and teachers will lead discussions around these topics during class times. You can find the the topic for your child's grade level listed to the right. We have also identified a Family Focus for each grade level which you will find described below. It is our hope that this family focus is something you can address throughout the school year in your home. Please make sure to check out the links and other support that our team has compiled and listed on our parent support site (<http://bit.ly/dcfamilysupport>). Thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

Skip Offenhauser

*Executive Director of Instructional Technology and Curriculum
Bend-La Pine Schools*

FAMILY FOCUS FOR EIGHTH GRADE: TECH AS A TOOL VS TECH AS A TOY

How many us have given our child our phone, tablet, or laptop as a diversion - something to keep them busy while we cook dinner, shop for groceries, meet with a customer? Probably all of us are guilty of this as some point in time so it's no wonder that kids grow up viewing these devices as toys rather than tools. But as adults we know that these devices are tools that help us with our work and personal lives. We use them to manage our time, communicate with each other, and improve our productivity. The challenge is transitioning our kids to view these devices as tools, rather than just toys. Parents can help students make this transition by showing them how they use digital devices in productive ways. Do you pay your bills online? If so, show your child how this is done and how you manage your budget online. Do you utilize online reviews of restaurants before going out to eat? Consider asking your son or daughter to do this research and select a place to eat. Do you create a holiday letter for friends and family? Put your teen in charge of putting this together. Planning a trip soon? Ask your child to research flights and hotels using a travel website and discuss what they found. These are all simple steps into letting students see how devices can be useful tools rather than just toys.



Eighth Grade
Social Me, Social Media



DISCUSS

How can social media enhance our lives? How can we avoid drama and negativity on social media?



ACCESS RESOURCES

Please visit our parent support site:
<http://bit.ly/dcfamilysupport>



PARTICIPATE

What will your family pledge to do (or not do) with your digital devices this week? If you use Twitter, Facebook or Instagram please share and use the hashtag **#blsdigitalcitizens**. You may be featured on our website!