

# 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 Offenbauer*

*Executive Director of Instructional Technology and Curriculum*

*Bend-La Pine Schools*

## FAMILY FOCUS FOR SIXTH GRADE: MANAGING MEDIA IN OUR LIVES

Today students have access to more information than ever before. The challenge for parents is managing and monitoring this access. The Internet allows us to have the world's knowledge at our fingertips, but it's also a place where kids can run into trouble. Just because we have access to information 24/7 doesn't mean it needs to be part of our lives 24/7. Computers should be kept in the open so screen time can be monitored. Establish digital free times and digital free areas of the home - especially at meal times. Make a media plan for the family that includes adults too. The rules should be written down and agreed upon by all family members. Monitor website usage and teach your child safe-search practices. For more resources, make sure to visit the "Digital Citizenship" page on our parent support site.

# 6

**Sixth Grade**

Digital Life

# #1

**DISCUSS**

What is the role of digital media in our lives?

# #2

**ACCESS RESOURCES**

Please visit our parent

support site:

<http://bit.ly/dcfamilysupport>

# #3

**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!