

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 FIFTH GRADE: INTERNET SAFETY AT HOME

Internet safety goes way beyond protecting kids from strangers or blocking inappropriate content. Prohibiting social media use or employing web filters cannot block all content that everyone finds objectionable...ever. Even with education restrictions enforced from home on our district iPads, students may find photos or content that is surprising. The fifth grade family focus is about helping your kids use the Internet productively and practice safe, responsible online behavior - especially when parents are not there to answer questions or check in on where students have ventured. Keep in mind that what may seem like basic knowledge to parents is new to kids just getting started in the digital world. Having a conversation before your child embarks online helps set expectations and establish ground rules. Fifth grade is a great time to start talking to your child about some of those topics they may be afraid to ask about outright, and their web browsing history can be a great place to start. Instead of making initial voyages into this wealth of information as interrogative or punitive, establish a routine of sharing and trust. This is also a great time to revisit rules and procedures about when and where technology can be used, and set clear guidelines for what your child should do if they happen upon something that makes them uncomfortable.



Fifth Grade
Online Privacy



DISCUSS

How do you know if your private information will be protected online?



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!