

Mountview Road School

Counselor's Corner: April 2021

Character Education Theme of the Month is: Citizenship



Teaching your children Digital Citizenship is very important as our world is changing faster than ever before. How do you help prepare your children for the digital age, and for a future that will look vastly different from our pasts? Let's take this one step at a time! Below are tips to help you and your children take some positive steps in the right direction in navigating the waters of the digital age.

1. Become a responsible digital citizen (and model that for your child).

What do you consider appropriate and responsible online behavior for your children? Do you model that? We often tell students in the classroom that if you wouldn't want your grandmother to read/see that, then don't post it! Take some time to explore the concept, what it means to you, and how to communicate about this with your children.

2. Become a power searcher.

Searching the internet can be an overwhelming and scary task if you don't have the skills to find what you need or want. Brush up on your search skills, so you can help your kids navigate the murky waters of the Internet. Spend some time practicing with your children how to safely search the internet to find reliable sources of information. You can even use this time together to discuss appropriate and inappropriate internet use and encourage digital citizenship.

3. Use YouTube for learning.

YouTube is loaded with funny and interesting videos that keep you and your loved ones entertained for hours but did you know YouTube is also a powerful tool for learning? It is the first place kids go when they want to learn how to do something, and it should be a go-to resource for you to learn as well. Practice searching for tutorials for online tools and apps that your kids are using like Google Docs, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok. Of course, it's also great when you need to fix that dishwasher! Be sure to set up your YouTube profile and begin saving your favorite videos and tutorials to playlists so you can quickly find the videos later. This is another great skill you can learn and share with your kids.

4. Model a positive social media presence.

Speaking of positive online presence, what types of thoughts and posts do you share online and across social media? Remember to model the behaviors you want to see from your

children and stay positive. What happens in "Vegas", now stays on YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook! Even after something has been deleted, it can always be re-shared and copied. Consider everything you post to be public and permanent, and model a positive online social media presence for your children.

5. Don't be afraid to let your children teach you.

Let's face it, our students and children are pretty fast learners when it comes to technology. Have your child show you how to use popular websites and the apps they use in school like Google Drive. They will love showing off their skills! The bottom line is to not only monitor what your kids do online but also to model positive online behaviors. Know what they are doing and who they are communicating with and ask questions! You might be surprised what you will learn from each other on your journey together as good digital citizens.



Important April Dates/Events

- **April 19-23:** MTV Student Council Read-a-thon (see email from Mrs. Camean for spirit days!)
- **April 21:** Early Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences - No Virtual Afternoon
- **April 22:** Early Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences - No Virtual Afternoon
- **April 23:** Report cards available in Powerschool Parent Portal
- **April 30:** Submission deadline for MTV Virtual Talent Show Google Form (organized by MTV PTA)

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