

Parent/Guardian Resources for Protecting Students at Home

Through the March 2018 Parent Survey on our 1:1 program, some parents indicated that they would like additional resources on how to help their child(ren) in becoming responsible digital citizens. There are many resources out there to support parents and guardians. **Students in grades 5-12 are issued district-owned Chromebooks. While these Chromebooks are on the district's network during the school day, students are protected by the district's content filtering program. The district has provided a level of content filtering appropriate at each school building. Once Chromebooks are connected to a student's home internet connection, it becomes the parents' or guardians' responsibility to monitor and provide appropriate content filtering to protect their child(ren).**

The district begins educating our students on Internet Safety and becoming a good digital citizen starting in our elementary schools through our Technology classes. Elementary teachers also reinforce this information as appropriate in conjunction with their curriculum and using technology in the regular classroom. Digital Citizenship lessons continue at the middle and high school through classroom based lessons and projects. The district also provides content filtering at each school and the level of protection depends upon the grade level of the children in each school.

It is important that digital citizenship lessons continue at home through conversation with your child(ren) and that parents and guardians establish rules governing devices. I have heard that many of our parents in the community handle things differently depending upon the age of the child(ren) and the problems that are being encountered. Some families have ask that all devices in the house stay on the first floor and are charged in a set location overnight. The only time the devices are allowed into bedrooms or other areas of the home is when homework is being completed. Other families have purchased or installed software such as OpenDNS (a free version - <https://www.opendns.com/home-internet-security/>) which controls sites and times that their child(ren) can be online. Some parents have also drafted family contracts, which explicitly detail when and how the device can be used at home. I understand that these examples may not work for everyone, but it is one way to limit screen time and access to technology.

Below are some additional resources for parents and guardians on digital citizenship:

Content Filtering in the Home:

- OpenDNS (a free version - <https://www.opendns.com/home-internet-security/>)
- Best Internet Filtering Software of 2019 (<https://www.toptenreviews.com/software/security/best-internet-filter-software/>)
- Five content filters suitable for both home and business (<https://www.techrepublic.com/blog/five-apps/five-content-filters-suitable-for-both-home-and-business/>)
- Many Internet service providers provide ways for parents/guardians to provide content filtering through their home service:
 - [Comcast](#)
 - [Verizon](#)

Additional Resources on Digital Citizenship in the Home:

- Screenagers-Under the Resources menu (<https://www.screenagersmovie.com/contracts-1/>)
- Common Sense Media (<https://www.common Sense Media.org/>) that provide some resources and additional information.
- CyberWise - <http://www.cyberwise.org/digital-citizenship>