

# Learning in a Digital World

## *Digital Citizenship & Parent Guide*



Developmental Research School  
at the University of Florida

### DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Education in the information age is increasingly carried out online. Engaging in the education process at P.K. Yonge requires students to be governed by P.K. Yonge Chromebook policy, the Acceptable Use Policy, and the Code of Conduct and all of its corresponding policies and procedures at all times.

As a good digital citizen, I will:

- **Respect Myself.** I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are appropriate. I will use caution with the information, images, and other media that I post online. I will carefully consider what personal information about my life, experiences, or relationships I post. I will not be obscene. I will act with integrity.
- **Protect Myself.** I will ensure that the information, images, and materials I post online will not put me at risk. I will not publish my personal details, contact details, or a schedule of my activities. I will report any attacks or inappropriate behavior directed at me while online. I will protect passwords, accounts, and resources.
- **Respect Others.** I will show respect to others. I will not use electronic mediums to antagonize, bully, harass, or stalk others. I will show respect for others in my choice of websites. I will not visit sites that are degrading to others, pornographic, racist, or inappropriate. I will not enter other individual's private spaces or areas.
- **Protect Others.** I will protect others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications. I will avoid unacceptable materials and conversations.
- **Respect Intellectual Property.** I will request permission to use copyrighted or otherwise protected materials. I will suitably cite all use of websites, books, media, etc. I will acknowledge all primary sources. I will validate information. I will use and abide by the fair use rules.
- **Protect Intellectual Property.** I will request to use the software and media others produce. I will purchase, license, and register all software or use available free and open source alternatives rather than pirating software. I will purchase my music and media and refrain from distributing these in a manner that violates their licenses.

# Learning in a Digital World

## *Digital Citizenship & Parent Guide*



Developmental Research School  
at the University of Florida

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN GUIDE**

Cybersafety is an important parent/guardian-child discussion to revisit frequently, from elementary school through high school. The following suggestions are drawn from a wide variety of professional sources that may aid you in effectively guiding your child's use of the Chromebook and other technology devices in your home. In accordance with the district's Acceptable Use Policy, outside of school, parents/guardians bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies and other potentially offensive media.

#### **Network Filters**

Inappropriate content is filtered, monitored, and blocked on the P.K. Yonge network. Because of the nature of technology, it is, however, impossible to guarantee that a user will not be able to gain access to unsuitable material and data through misuse or incidental occurrences related to the use of computers or the Internet.

Parents/Guardians should consider installing software to filter and block inappropriate content on home wireless networks. A free option for home filtering is OpenDNS Software (<http://www.opendns.com/>). Some products offer additional protection features such as cell phone filtering, text message and photo screening tools, and digital footprint/reputation monitoring.

Parents/guardians can consider exploring products that monitor your child's posts and digital footprint/reputation on sites like Facebook and Twitter, such as SafetyWeb and Social Shield. Free tools within Google and YouTube can be turned on to activate stricter filters on web, image, and video searches. Creating family agreements/contracts regarding home internet use and use when students are with friends is recommended.

#### **Set Expectations**

Regularly share your expectations with your child about accessing only appropriate sites and content, and about appropriate behavior when online (even when parents/guardians aren't watching). Outside of school, it is likely that your child has already been confronted with multiple opportunities to access content that parents/guardians wouldn't approve, such as pornography, hate sites, celebrity gossip, reality TV, personal blogs and more, all of which may influence your teen's beliefs, values and behavior. Understand that your teen's use of technology likely gives them the ability to connect to unfiltered public wireless networks (such as in a library or coffee shop, by picking up a neighbor's wireless signal, or connecting to the Internet through a cell service). It is important to maintain regular, open dialogue about Internet use and access and to discuss family expectations for appropriate Internet use and behavior.

#### **Monitor & Limit Screen Time**

Teaching today's children how to manage multiple sources of information and potential distractions is a critical life skill, one best learned before leaving home for college or the workplace. Know what your child is doing with technology and how his or her time is being spent. In school, a significant amount of class content is exchanged digitally. Students will access Chromebooks at home to communicate and collaborate with classroom stakeholders and to create content. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to help children learn to focus on completing tasks or assignments first before spending time on games, shopping, and social networking.