Share with Care

August and September Digital Citizenship Focus for Middle and HIgh School

At Pelham City Schools, we believe in partnering with parents to prepare our students to navigate the digital world. Smart, safe technology usage can enable students to help drive their own learning and help our schools function better. This month, students will be learning the importance of being smart about the information they share with the online world. Information travels fast online, and without some careful consideration, we can find ourselves in situations that may have lasting consequences.

The solution? Learning how and what to share with people we know and people we really don't know. Our online privacy depends a lot on what we do and don't share about ourselves and our families online — especially on social media. A really important skill for students to have is knowing what is and isn't okay to share. It's a skill we all develop with practice, and the best place to start is at home.

Vocabulary
Online Privacy
Digital Footprint
Reputation
Personal Information
Oversharing
Settings

Resources:
[Common Sense Media](#) is a great tool to review movies, games, apps, books, and tv shows.

This [Connect Safely](#) blog post provides tips for protecting your students from identity theft.

Google's [Be Internet Awesome Family Guide](#) is a great resource to help you incorporate and practice good digital habits in your everyday life.

Essential Skills

To be successful, students need concrete strategies for safe, appropriate digital interactions so they can minimize the risks of online sharing -- and take advantage of the rewards.

1. Understanding and analyzing privacy settings on apps, websites, and devices - what kind of information are you being asked to enter?

2. Encountering clickbait - Headlines crafted just to get clicks benefiting advertisers, not the reader.

3. Read the fine print - do you know what information a company collects and what they do with it?

4. Messaging and communication using social media apps or chat features within gaming apps - sharing information online with people you do not know can be risky.

5. When is it too much? - Having a balance between online and offline time is important for your mental health.
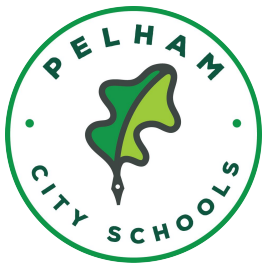
Share with Care

August and September Digital Citizenship Focus for Elementary

Be Internet Smart

Tips to help you be smart online

Tip 1
Be a positive presence online just like IRL (in real life).
Remember, once something by or about you is online like a photo, comment, or message, it could stay online forever.

Tip 2
Think before you post.
It's important to know when to post nothing at all – not to react to somebody's post, photo, or comment or not to share something that isn't true.

Tip 3
Protect your secrets.
Do not share your address, email, phone number, passwords, usernames or school documents with strangers.

Tip 4
Don't assume that people online will see you the way you think they'll see you.
Different people can see the same information and draw different conclusions from it.

Tip 5
It's always important to respect other people's privacy choices, even if they aren't the choices you'd make yourself.
Different situations call for different responses online and offline.