



# Digital Citizenship: A Guide to Navigating a Digital World

# Presenters

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- **Stephanie Singer**  
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Readington Township Public Schools
- **Sherry Krial**  
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# Sustainable Jersey for Schools

A free, voluntary program that provides tools, training, and grants to New Jersey public schools to help them implement sustainability initiatives and achieve certification.



- Identifies **actions** to become more sustainable
- Provides **tools, resources, and guidance** to make progress
- Provides access to **grants** for schools and school districts
- Recognizes **accomplishments**
- Awards certification to individual schools but requires School Board and district level support



# 7,861

sustainability **actions completed**  
by both schools  
& districts



# \$2.8 MILLION



in small grants distributed to schools & districts

# 64%

OF NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING



# 1,057

PARTICIPATING  
SCHOOLS



# 354

SCHOOLS  
**CERTIFIED**

**48** SILVER  
CERTIFIED

**306** BRONZE  
CERTIFIED

**43** DIGITAL  
SCHOOL  
STARS



# Sustainable Jersey for Schools



Howell Twp. School District

Long Branch School District

Hazlet School District





# Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools



## Future Ready Schools – New Jersey

- Advance digital learning equity and progress in New Jersey
- Designed based on the Sustainable Jersey model
- Certified 259 schools from 76 districts as Future Ready (Ceased operations in 2019)

## Transition to Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools

- 48 FRS-NJ Indicators integrated into Sustainable Jersey Digital Schools actions
- Partnership of NJSBA / NJDOE / Sustainable Jersey
  - Supported by the New Jersey LEE Group
  - Launched in December 2020



# Digital Schools Action Categories



- **School Culture & Climate** (3 actions)
- **Student Learning** (14 actions)
- **Digital Technology Access** (4 actions)
- **Digital Learning Practice** (4 actions)
- **Digital Learning Leadership** (4 actions)
  - Digital Citizenship



# Digital Schools Star Recognition



Pursuing Digital Schools Star recognition...  
Encourages school personnel at all levels  
and in all departments to work together  
to improve:

- planning
- decision making
- curriculum
- pedagogy
- budgeting
- technology resources to help students become better prepared for the future





# Learning Targets and Goals

We hope by the end of the session that you can:

- Apply lessons learned regarding the development and implementation of a district digital citizenship plan
- Develop and communicate digital citizenship goals
- Evaluate current district strategies and practices related to digital citizenship training for staff, students and parents
- Implement strategies to engage parents and community members in their digital citizenship efforts
- Assess adequacy of district's appropriate use of policies in addressing cyber bullying and inappropriate digital behaviors

# Readington Township Public Schools

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- Serve approximately 1400 students
  - Two K-3 Elementary schools
  - One 4-5 Intermediate school
  - One 6-8 Middle School
- Located in Hunterdon County
- 1:1 Chromebooks; K - iPads
- Committed to sustainability efforts
  - Awarded Silver Status SJS (4)
  - Digital Star Status (1)



# Why pursue this for SJ certification?

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- Helped us to define and clarify digital citizenship consistently as a district.
  - There are no “digital natives”
- Encouraged us to refine our digital citizenship plan and strategies.
  - New Media Literacy standards helped us to revise digital citizenship concepts within our curriculum.
  - Half of the “technology skills” are actually thinking skills applied to a technology.

# How did we build our DC plan?

- Enhanced our existing practices to meet Sustainable NJ criteria.
- LMS presented information literacy curriculum revisions and opportunities for collaboration to staff.
- Outreach (Parent Academy, website, newspaper article)



## Readington School District Offers Advice on Digital Citizenship

By Sherry Krival, Supervisor of PD Tech and Stephanie Singer, Readington Middle School Library Media Specialist

As with any life skill, students need support and education to make sound judgments when navigating the digital world. When adults model responsible digital citizenship, it helps students make smarter online and offline choices. Digital Citizenship Week was recently recognized across Readington Township Public Schools and offered the opportunity to explore several key approaches to conscientious online behavior. Families can delve into the following methods:

1. Create a balance between online and offline living. It's important to communicate the expectations of phone or device use to children as early as possible. Some households introduce a usage contract that is reviewed with a child before receiving their device. It could include stipulations regarding hours and/or duration of use, consequences for misuse, and rules for posting and sharing.

It is possible to track screen time through device settings and put time limits on select applications. By establishing distinct boundaries and guidelines for how devices are handled in the home and keeping students accountable for their choices, the stage is set for future usage negotiation based on a child's evolving needs.

2. Create guidelines for appropriate posts. By following the well-known THINK criteria for commenting and posting, students learn to mirror their best in-person interpersonal behaviors online. THINK signifies wondering if what they're about to share is T-rust, H-elpful, F-ranquing, N-ecessary, or K-kind. It is important to emphasize that anything online can be shared beyond its intended audience, including photos and videos. For older children, their "digital footprint" will eventually be accessed by potential employers and educational institutions. Have them consider how they're curating their online reputation.

3. Do not overshare personal

information because it can be misused. Children can be easily located and tracked by oversharing facts about their daily lives, including family names, birthdates, schools, and activities.

4. Think critically about what you read or consume. Being media literate helps ensure that decisions are based on the most reliable information. In evaluating information sources, the ABCDs are a set of criteria that can be referenced. A stands for author and reminds us to examine the qualifications of the writer. B stands for bias and encourages readers to be aware of the perspective of the author and news source. C stands for content and invites readers to consider which sources are cited and which data is corroborated across media outlets. D stands for date and allows for the opportunity to check the relative timeliness of the data presented.

5. Maintain positive relationships. Good digital citizenship does not mean completely abstaining from social media or online endeavors. In fact, many students found these to be a critical lifeline during the isolation they recently experienced. However, it's important to reinforce that healthy and affirming interactions are the ultimate goal in online relationship-building, instead of attention-seeking and popularity.

By communicating clear expectations and offering behaviors to emulate, adults, directly and indirectly, influence students' digital citizenship practices in their lives. There are resources that help support families as they navigate the latest in technology and media, such as Common Sense Media ([www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)). Practicing responsible digital citizenship ourselves helps to clear a path for our youth to do the same.

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# K-Grade 3

## ALL DIGITAL CITIZENS

**PROTECT PRIVATE INFORMATION**  
for themselves and others.

**RESPECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS**  
in online communities.

**STAY SAFE ONLINE**  
by listening to their gut feelings.

**STAND UP TO CYBERBULLYING**  
when they see it happening.

**BALANCE THE TIME**  
they spend using media and doing other activities.



For information and resources about digital citizenship, visit [www.common Sense.org/educators](http://www.common Sense.org/educators).



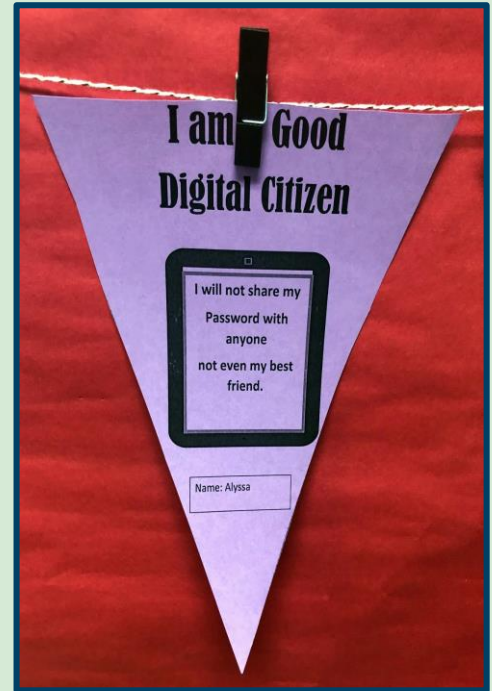
### Sample Resources

[NetSmartzKids.org](http://NetSmartzKids.org)

[Be Internet Awesome](#)

[Interland](#)

[Marvel's Web Warriors](#)



# Web Warrior

# SARA



Web Warriors have the important job of being a responsible digital citizens. On my computer I am **Smart, Alert, Strong, Kind, and Brave.**

When I am smart I keep extra sensitive information to myself. When I'm Alert I spot the signs of a potential scam. When I'm Strong I create a strong password that no one will figure out. When I am Kind I speak up against bullying and report it every time. The last one is I'm Brave. When I'm brave I stand up when I see something I am not comfortable with. That is how I'm a Web Warrior!

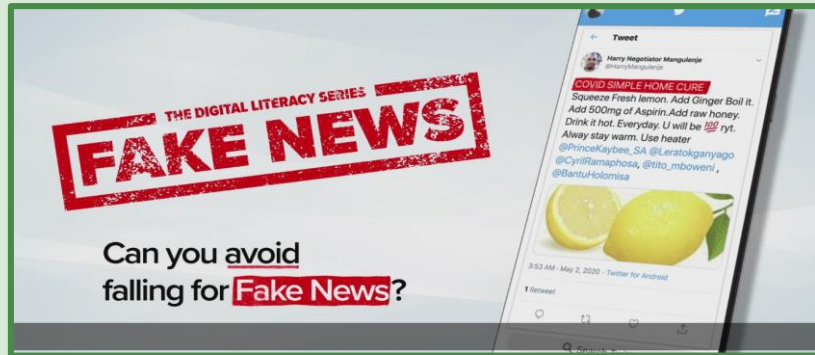


# Grades 4-5

Sample Resources:

Common Sense Media's  
Digital Passport

How to spot fake news/Newsela



 common sense  
digital passport™

Now available in Spanish!

Ready to play Digital Passport™?

 SECURITY		 MULTITASKING	
 PRIVACY		 UPSTANDER	
 SEARCH		 CREATIVE CREDIT	

# Grades 6-8

- Lessons and interactions with Guidance counselors
- Information Literacy curriculum lessons taught by LMS in Language Arts, Social Studies, Health, and Science classes
- Key concepts are reinforced by content area teachers





# 5 Ways to Model Responsible Digital Citizenship

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Create guidelines for appropriate posts.

**THINK!** Before you post a comment/photo/video, is it...

T =true?

H =helpful?

I =inspiring?

N =necessary?

K =kind?



# Information Literacy Lessons

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- Media Literacy
  - Source Evaluation
- Visual Literacy
- Responsible photo/video use



# Lessons learned...

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- Involve all key participants, including computer science teachers, counselors, and library media specialists.
- Give all staff the time and training to incorporate Digital Citizenship criteria into their practice.
- All things are scalable.

# Essex County Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology

- Serves approximately 1300 students
  - Part of Essex County Schools Technology
  - Three Vocational High Schools
  - Serving HS Students in Essex County
  - Students Come from over 20 Middle Schools,
    - Predominantly from Newark, East Orange, Irvington areas



Bronze Level Sustainable School, Digital Star

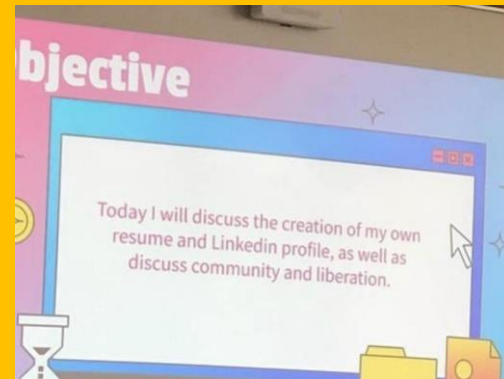
West Caldwell Tech (Silver)



# Essex County Schools of Technology



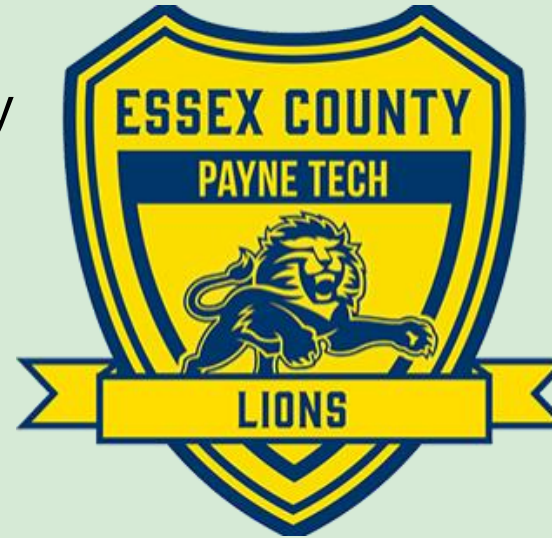
Our Digital Citizenship curriculum begins with our required incoming 9th Grade Summer Enrichment program, where all incoming 9th graders participate in 8 weeks of summer instruction in english, math, science, and digital citizenship. Digital Citizenship is then embedded into the curriculum across subjects and especially in ELA relating to media literacy.



# Essex County Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology

## Why Digital Citizenship was so important for us:

- Students level of computer and digital literacy skills were varied based on prior knowledge and skills
- Almost all of our 85% of HIB cases involved social media and technology
- 1-1 Chromebook Program
- CTE programs need to reflect Career based Research, Technology and Work based Learning Skills
- ***Senior Mentors become Digital Mentors***





# Digital Learning Practices



## Digital Citizenship

Interactive Lessons

For Summer Enrichment  
Teacher Training 6/18/20





# Additionally Throughout the Year, Teachers Attend training and integrate in curriculum:



- History of Social Media
- Positive and Negative Influences of Social Media today
- Opportunities to use a variety of digital platforms to design products and share information such as digital video and photography skills and video editing software
- Investigating verbal and nonverbal communication to present ideas
- "Netiquette" and Digital Citizenship
- Ethical Use of Digital Resources





# Resources We Used

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# Essex County Donald M. Payne Sr. School of Technology

**BAD  
NEWS**

From fake news to chaos! How do you survive?  
How do you get as many followers as you can?

START

EN ▾



Chainsawsuit comic by Kris Straub, from Sept. 16, 2014

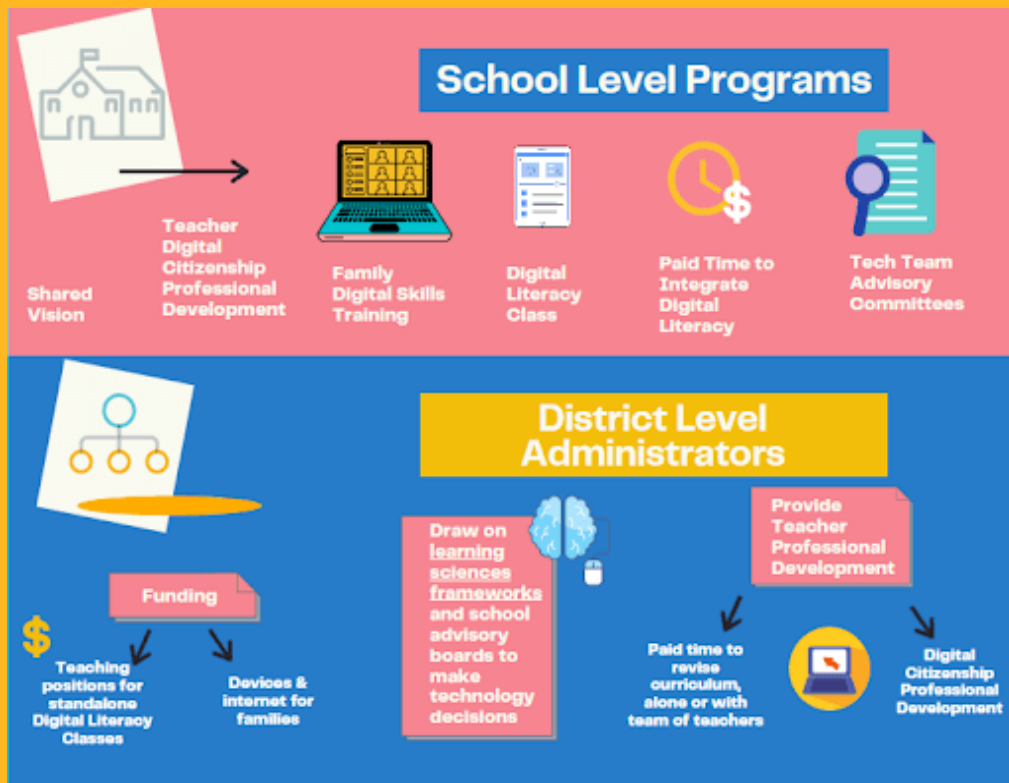
When evaluating online resources, it's hard to let go of our own biases. You don't have to read, but sometimes making the best case you can for a perspective or argument and perceptions will help you make your own arguments better.

- AllSides
- authentiSci
- Internet Archive
- Quote Investigator
- Wikipedia - List of Fake News Websites



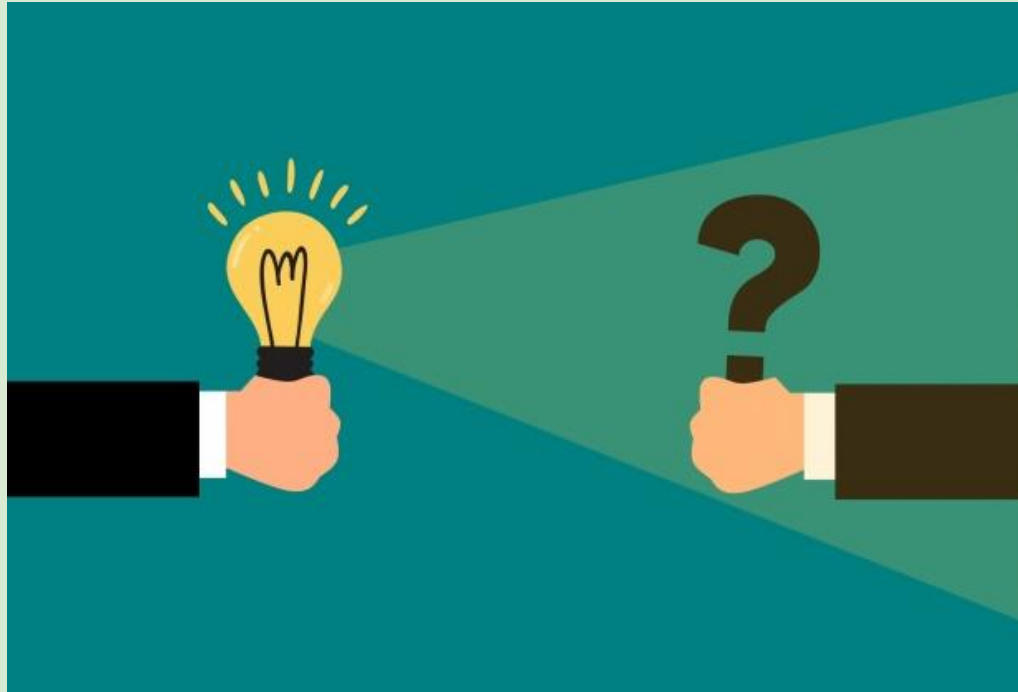
# Lessons learned...

- Adding Student Mentors, increased overall student accountability
- Broke down barriers for student dialogue
- Provide Summer Institute for Staff



# Questions or comments?

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Students, write your response!

# Sustainable Jersey for Schools Sponsors and Funders

## Program Underwriters



## Grant Sponsors



## Corporate Sponsors



\* Digital Schools Sponsors and Funders



# Thank You

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