Digital Action Plan

Designed by: Jessie Miles, 2012

Digital Citizenship Definition:

To be a digital citizen, one must use the Internet and other technologies in an appropriate and responsible manner. There are nine elements of Digital Citizenship: access, commerce, communication, literacy, etiquette, law, rights and responsibilities, health and wellness, and security.

Updating Our School for the Digital Age:

One of the elements of digital citizenship, digital access, asks if all users can participate in a digital society (Ribble 2008). In most public schools today, like ours, the answer is no. Teachers are being blocked from potentially useful and educational websites and students are teaching themselves how to work around digital filters to access their favorite blocked social media websites. All this Internet blocking was created in response to the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which is a law that requires schools to institute Internet safety protocols (Ash 2009). While the need to protect our children in the digital age is strong, the desire to teach them how to use the Internet responsibly should be stronger. Schools like ours need to be careful not to control digital content at the expense of the students' (as well as teachers') digital literacy.

Our school's current method of Internet filtering is through the use of a blacklist that doesn't allow the user to access certain sites or use certain search words. For example, if you type "youtube" in Google's search box, a black page pops up telling you that "youtube is a blocked search word" and it goes on to say, "the requested search has been blocked by the content filter because it is in violation of the internet acceptable usage policy set by the administration". I would like to pose an alternative to

the current method of blocking content. If we teach our students (and staff) how to use the Internet and other technologies appropriately and responsibly, in other words become digital citizens, then we would not only be working to educate ourselves and our students, but also starting to build a small bridge across the digital divide. Even though I want to do away with the current filtering system, we should still use a filtering device to exclude pornography in schools. Digital citizenship needs to be taught in every class that utilizes technology. I purpose that we adopt the Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum found through the Commonsense CyberSmart! website (Teicher 2012). I also recommend implementing the International Society for Technology in Education's National Educational Technology Standards (ISTA.NETS) in our classrooms (ISTA 2011). By educating, rather than controlling, students on the best way to use the Internet and other technologies, we will be teaching them how to become the digital citizens we want them to be.

Objectives:

- Within the first year of implementing the plan, at least one staff member per building will be trained as a technology coach and will be indoctrinated in the NETS.C standards (for digital age coaches). All coaches will participate in the NETS Leadership Academy Courses: Foundation, Deep Dive, and Leadership and Advocacy. (Each course lasts 6 weeks.)
- Within three years of implementing the plan, all administrators will be indoctrinated in the NETS.A standards. All administrators will participate in the Digital Citizenship Online Professional Development Course. (Course lasts 6 weeks.)
- Within three years of implementing the plan, all teachers will be indoctrinated in the NETS.T standards. (Computer Science Teachers will be indoctrinated in the NETS.cse standards.) All teachers will participate in the Digital Citizenship Online Professional Development Course. (Course lasts 6 weeks.)
- Within five years of implementing the plan, all students will be indoctrinated in the NETS.S standards.
- Within five years of implementing the plan, all schools will have implemented the Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum into the classroom. (For grades K-5, this can be taught in the general classroom or in a separate technology class; for grades 6-8, this can be taught in a computer class or career class; for grades 9-12, this can be taught in the Career and Technical Education class or in another elective class.)

Digital Action Steps:

1. During the first year, at least one staff member from each school will be chosen to become a Digital Age Coach through the NETS.C standards. This can be an administrator, teacher, technical assistance personnel, or librarian. These coaches will act as leaders and mentors throughout the Digital Citizenship implementation. Digital Coaches will "inspire and participate in the development and implementation of a shared vision for the comprehensive integration of technology to promote excellence and support transformational change throughout the instructional environment" (ISTE.NETS). These coaches will participate in the NETS Leadership Academy Courses: Foundation, Deep Dive, and Leadership and Advocacy through the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTA) website. Each course lasts six weeks. During this first year, Digital Coaches will also be required to read "National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers, 2nd Edition" to become accustomed to the NETS.T standards and how teachers will implement them.
    - NETS for Teachers Book
    - NETS Leadership Academy Online Courses
    - NETS for Coaches Website
    - NETS.C

2. During the second year, Digital Coaches will look at the Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum provided by Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org). They will participate in the K12 Digital Literacy and Citizenship Online Training. Coaches will learn about the Scope and Sequence for all grade levels K-12, and will learn the standards for all these grades. They will look at the unit and lesson plans, and create a schedule for

implementing these. During the second year of implementation of the plan, the Digital Coaches will have become acquainted with both the NETS standards through the ISTA and the Digital Literacy and Citizenship curriculum through Common Sense Media. They will create a plan of implementation for all the grade levels.

- Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum
- Digital Literacy and Citizenship Classroom Curriculum Scope and Sequence
- Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum Grades K-5
- Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum Grades 6-8
- Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum Grades 9-12
- K12 Digital Literacy and Citizenship Online Training

3. During the third year, administrators and teachers will be required to participate in the Digital Citizenship Online Professional Development Course. The course lasts 6 weeks. In this professional development, teachers and administrators will be introducted to digital citizenship, and will be provided lesson ideas and instructional activities for the classroom. Teachers will be required to read "National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers, 2nd Edition" to become accustomed to the NETS.T standards. Computer Science teachers will focus on the NETS.CSE standards. Administrators will be required to read "National Educational Technology Standards for Administrators" to become accustomed to the NETS.A standards. Teachers and administrators will work with the Digital Coaches to become acquainted with the Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum. Teachers, administrators, and digital coaches will use the rest of this year to prepare for the implementation of the curriculum with the students next year.

    - NETS for Teachers Book
    - NETS for Administrators Book

- NETS.T
- NETS.A
- NETS.CSE
- Digital Citizenship Online Professional Development Course

4. During the fourth year, the schools will begin the Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum for all grades. Within the curriculum, students will explore nine units: safety, security, digital life, privacy and digital footprints, connected culture, self-expression and identity, respecting creative work, searching, and research and evaluation. Students will also be introduced to the NETS.S standards. Schools have the option of purchasing books, posters, and brochures to assist in the implementation of the standards.
    - Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum
    - Digital Literacy and Citizenship Classroom Curriculum Scope and Sequence
    - Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum Grades K-5
    - Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum Grades 6-8
    - Digital Literacy and Citizenship Curriculum Grades 9-12
    - NETS.S
    - NETS.S books, posters, and brochures

5. During the fifth year and beyond, teachers, administrators, and digital coaches will assess the previous year to determine if any changes need to be made to the curriculum to better reach the students.

Resources:

Ash, Katie. (Dec. 16, 2009). Online Safety Law Seen As Teaching Barrier. *Education Week.* Retrieved from http://blogs.edweek.org.proxy2.ulib.iupui.edu/edweek/DigitalEducation/2009/12/what_does_cipa_really_say.html?qs=teaching+internet+safety

Hollandsworth, R., Dowdy, L., & Donovan, J. (July 2011). Digital Citizenship in K-12: It Takes a Village. *TechTrends.* Volume 55, Number 4. Retrieved from https://resources.oncourse.iu.edu/access/content/group/SP12-IN-EDUC-W531-12294/Social%20Responsibility%20and%20Digital%20Citizenship/Digital%20Citizenship%20K-12-%20It%20Takes%20a%20Village.pdf

ISTE - International Society for Technology in Education. (2011). *ISTE.NETS standards*. Retrieved from http://www.iste.org/standards.aspx

Ribble, Mike. (2007). Nine Themes of Digital Citizenship. *Digital Citizenship.* Retrieved from http://digitalcitizenship.net/Nine_Elements.html

Ribble, Mike. (Dec. 2008). Passport to Digital Citizenship. *Learning and Leading with Technology.* Retrieved from http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/uploads/LL2008DCArt.pdf

Teicher, J. & Bawer, M. (2012). CyberSmart! Curriculum. *Common Sense Media.* Retrieved from http://cybersmartcurriculum.org/