



# Citizenship Week



Digital media is driving significant changes to the ways children live and learn. The world has opened up to our students and it brings exciting opportunities - new career paths, increased social connections, innovative educational approaches, as well as expanded means for self-expression. Teen students have been shown to use an average of 9 hours of media daily, not including media used for school or homework. But did you know, as many as 38% of children under 2 years of age using mobile devices for media? In today's world, it's never too early to begin teaching responsible digital citizenship.

For this reason, the School Board of Broward County, Florida supports Digital Citizen Week annually, the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in October. Technology is a wonderful thing, but if misused, poses as many risks as benefits. Let's work together as school staff, students, parents, and lawmakers to ensure children learn how to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

Celebrate Digital Citizenship Week to raise awareness and educate students on internet safety. Help them become digital citizens who appreciate the responsibility they hold for their choice of content and actions when going online or using cell phones. Below you will find resources for school based activities, strategies for engaging parents, and links to additional resources.

## School Based Activities

What can you do to celebrate kids using technology safely, responsibly, and respectfully? Empower your students in 3 simple steps!

1. Utilize the [Think B4U Post Toolkit](#) to access internet safety lesson, morning announcements, videos, etc. to reinforce responsible Digital Citizenship. Use the "Delete Day – Take Your Future into Your Own Hands" Lesson Plan from the toolkit as a schoolwide event during Digital Citizenship Week.

2. Take the [Digital Citizenship for All Pledge](#) or create your own. Join over 5,500 educators who have pledged to teach their students how to manage their online reputations, deal with cyberbullying, and conduct themselves safely online. As a bonus for taking the pledge, you can receive a Common Sense Media's Digital Classroom Starter Kit for free.

Do you or your students want to create your own pledge? Encourage your students to write their own personal pledges for being a good digital citizen. A pledge can take the form of a motto or a slogan, a song, or a rap. It can rhyme, but it doesn't have to.

- For Primary Students: Download the ["Student Pledge Activity Sheet"](#) and share it with your students to get them started or utilize the ["Digital Citizenship Pledge Lesson Plan 3-5"](#).
- For Secondary Students: Utilize a modified version of the ["Digital Citizenship Pledge Lesson Plan 3-5"](#) or get creative. Have your students create their own pledges, then add music or animation to them before publishing them as videos. These sites have lists of tools you can use - [Great Games, Apps, and Sites for Music and Composing](#) and [Websites and Apps for Making Videos and Animations](#).

3. **Involve your families:** Digital Citizenship Week is the perfect time for families to reflect on the role technology plays in their lives. Encourage an at home dinner activity or a school event, at either families can discuss and sign ["Family Media Agreements"](#).

- **The home event can be #DeviceFreeDinner.** Challenge your families to have a #DeviceFreeDinner. It's the perfect time for students to take what they've learned about responsible digital citizenship out of the classroom and into action. Parents can take this undistracted face-to-face time to talk about usage and having a balanced online life. To begin the conversation, encourage parents to use the ["Digital Citizenship Week Time to Have Talk"](#) for primary students and the ["Cyberbalance in a Digital Culture Tip Sheet"](#) for secondary students.
- **The school event can be Bytes & Bites Community Dinner.** Utilize the ["Bytes & Bites Community Dinner Guide"](#) to help in the planning. It can be a time to share experiences, build positive online habits, and learn about digital safety and responsibility in order to be good digital citizens. Pair with your students and have them teach their parents about online life.

Further resources to help families start the digital citizenship conversation with their children and keep it going are available at:

- [CommonSenseMedia.org](#)
- [NetSafeUtah.org](#)
- [NetSmartz.org](#)

- Source: Common Sense Media