

Digital Citizenship Week at Chesterbrook

This week, **October 21-25**, FCPS is celebrating Digital Citizenship Week! This year's theme is **Media Balance and Well-Being: Developing a Healthy Relationship with Your Technology**. Our school is celebrating Digital Citizenship Week with daily messages for students. These messages -- in the news show, in morning meetings, and in hallways -- focus on developing healthy habits around technology use.

The entire month of October has had a Digital Citizenship focus at Chesterbrook ES, since our Counselors Heather Lomelin and Lindsay Pence have been delivering **FCPS Digital Citizenship lessons** for our students in all grade levels. Perhaps your child brought home a handout or told you about one of the activities.

As you may know, Chesterbrook ES was recognized last year as a **2018-2020 Common Sense School**. This honor comes from Common Sense, a non-profit organization that provides ratings, education, and advocacy to promote safe technology and media for children. On their [Parent Engagement Resources](#) webpage, you can find some of their most popular parent resources: media ratings and reviews (books, movies, apps), family media agreements, and advice on common concerns related to children, technology, and media. One resource related to young children's healthy technology use is Common Sense Media text messages that deliver [Tips for Healthy Tech Balance](#).

Below you'll find a schedule of the FCPS Digital Citizenship daily themes along with resources and suggested activities to help support healthy technology habits at home.

Activities for Each Day of Digital Citizenship Week

Monday: Families are encouraged to reflect on their own relationship with technology, their media habits, and begin to think of ways to make some healthy adjustments.

- Reflect on the role technology plays in your life with [Google's technology self-assessment](#).
- Track your screen time on [Apple](#) and [Android](#) devices.
- Check out Google's [Digital Wellbeing tools](#).

- Use this [On-Task Self-Monitoring Sheet](#) and a timer for one day to become more aware of whether technology is distracting you from your homework or other focused work.
- Create a family media plan to reflect on your current practices and plan to incorporate healthy media habits into your home.
 - [American Academy of Pediatrics Family Media Planner](#)
 - [The SMART Talk](#)
 - [Common Sense Media Device Contract](#) and Media Agreement ([K-5](#), [6-8](#), [9-12](#))

Tuesday: Students and families are encouraged to exercise healthy tech practices such as managing notification settings and turning off screens an hour before bedtime. Try some of these ideas:

- Consider making [phone-free zones](#) in your home.
- Promote better sleep by disconnecting from screens at least one hour before bedtime and charging your phone outside of the bedroom.
- Change your phone's [notification settings](#) to minimize distractions or try some of [these suggestions](#).
- Visit Google's [Focus Your Time](#) page for suggestions to track usage and manage your time on Android apps as well as time management suggestions for Youtube and Gmail.
- Try some family mindfulness activities with GoNoodle's [Flow](#) channel.

Wednesday: On this day, students and families are encouraged to think about how technology can be used to create original works. Encourage students to favor the active use of technology for creation over passive consumption. Try some of these ideas:

- Use Common Sense Media's [App Reviews](#) to learn about your child's favorite games and apps and what you might need to teach them in order to use it safely.
- As an FCPS student, your child has access to a number of digital tools that promote creativity including Wixie (elementary only), Voicethread, and G Suite including Google Docs, Slides, Drawings, and more. These tools are available for students to create outside of school too!

- Students are also encouraged to experiment with computer coding at home. [Code.org](#) has activities that teach students to use coding to design games, apps, drawings, and websites.

Thursday: Students and families are encouraged to think critically about the media they consume and actively evaluate and select high quality, age-appropriate media. Try some of these ideas:

- Help your child become a critical consumer of media by discussing these [5 questions](#) with them when you consume media together such as books, movies, and news articles.
- Consider Common Sense Media's [reviews](#) of movies, apps, TV shows, video games, websites, and music for information that can help you decide if the media your child is consuming is appropriate for them.
- Check out this [tip sheet](#) with your child and emphasize the importance of choosing quality resources.
- Try these additional [tips](#) on how to establish expectations at home around media use.

Friday: Students and families are encouraged to practice media balance by taking a break from screens to engage in real-world experiences and quality time with their friends and family. Try some of these ideas:

- Have a [device-free dinner](#) and focus on connecting as a family.
- Take on a Phone-Free Day challenge as a family and commit to leaving the phone at home when family members go to school or work. Notice how your day changes and discuss the benefits and challenges together.
- Have a family board game night instead of playing video games or watching TV.
- Make a phone call or write a letter to a family member or friend instead of sending a text or email.

Spend time outside as a family and leave the phone behind. Thank you for participating in Digital Citizenship Week! Take good care of your body, mind and your relationships and enjoy the benefits of using technology in a healthy and balanced way.