

Digital Citizenship Tip of the Month

Understanding Cyberbullying

As students begin to interact in chat rooms and on social media, cyberbullying should be a major topic of discussion in your classroom. Remind students that if something is too mean to say in person, it's too mean to say online. Remind students that online bullying is still real, so they should stop what they are doing and get an adult if they are uncomfortable about anything they see online. Teaching middle schoolers to be upstanders instead of bystanders is just as important for online behavior as it is on school grounds.

Respecting Privacy

Middle schoolers have plenty of secrets, and spilling someone else's beans causes just as much drama online as it does in the cafeteria. Discuss the importance of online privacy for themselves and others. By middle school, it's time to expand on the lessons about not sharing personal information with strangers to dive into when and what is okay to share—including photos.



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