Digital Citizenship
Being Responsible Online

Being a good digital citizen means that you behave responsibly online, you think critically about what you read, and you make smart, safe decisions online.

Be Positive and Kind Online

► Be extra polite to people online. They can't see your expression or hear your tone of voice, so what you say can easily be misunderstood.

► Remember that permanent means *permanent*. Somebody will always have access to what you've sent or posted, and it can always be recovered. Only send or post things you feel comfortable with people seeing *forever*.

► Be smart. Only use social media for positive comments, kind words, and to support others.

Think Critically

► There is a great deal of information online that's deceptive, misleading, or false. Be sure to double check facts, especially for information found on social media sites.

► Think independently, clearly, and rationally, and consider the motivations of the author.

Be Smart and Safe Online

► Create hard to guess passwords, change them regularly, and don't share them with anyone other than your parents.

► Don't put personal information (address, school, favorite hangout, etc.) online.

► Don't download copyrighted music or videos—it's illegal.

► If you're ever bullied or threatened online, tell someone. Never let someone bully you into silence.

► Choose the discussions and communities you participate in wisely. Not all communities and forums on the internet are positive.

► Do not meet face to face with someone you've met online.

► Sending and receiving "sexy" pictures of yourself and/or classmates can be illegal. *Never send or share inappropriate photos or messages.*

Most importantly, be your own person and think for yourself. If something doesn't feel or sound right to you, it probably isn't. Use common sense and trust your instincts.