Digital Citizenship Starter Kit

Digital citizenship refers to the new codes of conduct we all must adopt be safe, responsible, and respectful participants in today's digitally connected culture.

One great way to get students thinking critically about digital citizenship is to let them learn and practice new skills in a safe social-learning platform such as Edmodo. That's why Common Sense Media and Edmodo partnered to create this **Digital Citizenship Starter Kit** for your classroom. In it, you'll find a series of activities and lessons designed to introduce digital citizenship concepts right in Edmodo, to help you get your online classroom community up and running.

Begin building your classroom community with the help of our **Getting-Started Activity**. You'll find all of the instructions you need to get your group set up and your students on Edmodo. Use this first lesson to discuss what it takes to build a positive online community and how you expect each member of your Edmodo group to contribute responsibly. Wrap up the activity by collaborating on the **We the Digital Citizens Pledge** poster and have students sign to solidify their commitment. Then hang the poster on your classroom wall.

Now you are ready to move on to the five topical modules. Each module includes an activity in Edmodo to start the conversation about a key concept of digital citizenship. The activities align with age-appropriate lessons from Common Sense Media's free K-12 Digital Literacy and Citizenship curriculum, which you can use both for background and to delve deeper into each topic.

Use this Digital Citizenship Starter Kit to establish expectations in your classroom about how your students will engage one another in Edmodo and beyond, as well as to get acquainted with and make the most of the Edmodo platform.

We also hope this kit helps kick off an ongoing conversation in your classroom about what it takes to be a good digital citizen. Check out www.commonsense.org/educators for additional resources to teach digital literacy and citizenship.

Start the Conversation

Internet Safety & Security
Teach students to be smart and alert when online. Give them practical strategies for protecting themselves and their information as they begin to explore communicating with others and using the Internet for research, fun, commerce, and more.

Cyberbullying
Students learn that kindness matters online, just like in person, and that everyone has a role to play in standing up to those who use digital technologies to be hurtful or cause harm. These skills apply to younger students as well as those in high school, who often see this kind of online cruelty as "digital drama."

Relationships & Community
Challenge your students to think about how they relate to one another through technology — and how they can be effective, clear, and positive contributors in digital spaces.

Digital Identity
Give students an opportunity to reflect on the role of media and technology in their lives: how they use it and how they define themselves in digital spaces.

Information Literacy
Introduce the basics of finding and evaluating information online, as well as being responsible by giving credit for creative work used.

WE, THE DIGITAL CITIZENS, PLEDGE TO...

COMMUNICATE RESPONSIBLY AND KINDLY WITH ONE ANOTHER.

PROTECT OUR OWN AND OTHERS' PRIVATE INFORMATION ONLINE.

STAND UP TO CYBERBULLYING.

RESPECT EACH OTHER'S IDEAS AND OPINIONS.

GIVE PROPER CREDIT WHEN WE USE OTHERS' WORK.

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Digital Citizenship Pledge

Essential Question

How do you create a positive online community?

Lesson Overview

Students will establish group norms to create a positive online community that promotes responsible and respectful digital behavior within their classroom by collaborating on a **We the Digital Citizens Pledge**.

Students will join an Edmodo group, in which they will continue to practice digital citizenship skills throughout the year.

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to …

- establish expectations and norms for the group related to appropriate online behavior.
- participate responsibly and respectfully in an online community.
- apply digital citizenship skills within their Edmodo group.

Materials and Preparation

- Copy the **Join our Edmodo Group Student Handout**, one per student.

- Create a teacher account on Edmodo (www.edmodo.com); for instructions, refer to http://help.edmodo.com/teacher-signup.

- Create an Edmodo group for the class to join. For instructions, refer to http://help.edmodo.com/create-a-group.

- Copy the **We the Digital Citizens Pledge,** one per group of two to three students.

- Print out one copy of the **We the Digital Citizens Pledge** as a poster for your classroom wall (can be printed in black and white or in color, sizes 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17").

Estimated time: 45 minutes

Key Vocabulary –

community: a group of people with a common background or shared interests

expectation: a thing one looks forward to

digital citizen: a member of a worldwide community linked by the Internet

pledge: a promise, an oath, or a commitment

Warm-up *(5 minutes)*

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **community**.

ASK:

What are some communities that you are a part of?	Sample responses: • sports teams • religious groups • volunteer groups

DISCUSS how students also belong to a community within the classroom.

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **expectation**.

ASK:

What are some expectations that we have for being part of our classroom community?	Sample responses: • treat each other kindly • be respectful • follow the rules

Why do we want our communities to have these kinds of behavior expectations?	Encourage students to reflect upon how expectations let us all know how we are supposed to interact, work, and get along with one another. Without such guidelines, people might find it difficult to have that communal spirit.

teach 1

Join an Online Community: Edmodo *(15 minutes)*

INVITE students to join a new online community, your Edmodo group.

DISTRIBUTE the **Join our Edmodo Group Student Handout**, one per student.

INSTRUCT students to create an Edmodo account by going to www.edmodo.com and selecting "I'm a Student." They should enter the six-digit group code in the first field and fill out the rest of the form. They should choose a username and password. Email is NOT required. Lastly, they should fill in the their first and last names, and then select "Sign up" to complete the process.

REMIND students to keep their username and password information safe and secure.

SHOW students how to select a profile avatar in their Account Settings.

Create a We the Digital Citizens Pledge *(20 minutes)*

ASK:

What are some other online communities that you are a part of?	Sample responses: • Gaming communities • Virtual worlds (e.g., Club Penguin) • School groups (e.g., Edmodo, a blog)
How are online communities different than offline communities? How are they similar?	Sample responses: • You may not know everyone personally in an online community. • People meet face to face offline, but people do not have in-person contact online. • People in both communities usually have similar interests or goals.
What are some examples of how you can be a good member of one of these communities?	Sample responses: • Welcome all members • Follow the rules or guidelines of the group/community • Encourage others to follow the community's guidelines as well

DEFINE the Key Vocabulary term **digital citizen**.

EXPLAIN that as members of online communities, your class is going to outline the kinds of expectations you all have for being good digital citizens.

DIVIDE the class into small groups of two or three students.

DISTRIBUTE copies of **We the Digital Citizens Pledge,** one per small group.

REVIEW the expectations outlined on the pledge as a whole group.

INSTRUCT students to brainstorm for five minutes in their small groups about additional expectations that they feel are important for an online community. Have them fill in the last two speech bubbles on the **We the Digital Citizens Pledge**.

INSTRUCT students to reassemble to share their ideas. As a whole group, decide on two additional expectations for your class's **We the Digital Citizens Pledge.**

INVITE each student to sign the **We the Digital Citizens Pledge** as a promise of his/her commitment, and then hang the poster on your classroom wall. (Younger students can "sign" by tracing their hands and cutting out the shapes to adorn the edges of the poster.)

Wrap-up *(5 minutes)*

You can use these questions to assess your students' understanding of the lesson objectives. You may want to post one or more of the questions in the Edmodo group and ask students to reply and share their thoughts.

ASK:

What is a pledge?	A pledge is a promise or a commiment. A pledge helps build an agreed-upon sense of community.
Which part of the We the Digital Citizens Pledge is most meaningful to you?	Answers will vary.
How do you hope to use Edmodo to collaborate and communicate with your teacher and classmates?	Answers will vary.

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Join our Edmodo Group

1. Go to www.edmodo.com and select "I'm a Student"

2. Fill out the form:

- Enter the group code
  _____

- Create a username
  *Make sure it's appropriate

- Create a password
  *Choose something that
   you will remember

- Enter your email (optional)

- Enter your first and last name

- Select "Sign up" to finish
  and create your account

Congratulations - you are now a member of our Edmodo group!