

What is digital citizenship?

Recognizing the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of living, learning, and working in an interconnected digital world and acting in ways that are safe, legal, and ethical. (ISTE, 2020)

Digital citizenship includes, not only your actions in your online courses, but also in your personal life - including, sending a picture on your smartphone, playing video games online, and interacting with others on social media. Good digital citizens protect their personal information, use good judgment, and treat others with respect. As a result, practicing good digital citizenship makes our online world a more welcoming place for everyone.

Without a doubt, technology affects every aspect of our lives. In an effort to develop well-rounded digital citizens, DoDEA Virtual School (DVS) recognizes the components of digital citizenship - digital footprints; online privacy and security, including cyberbullying; and academic integrity, which includes citing sources, plagiarism, and the use of translation software. For more information on school policies regarding digital citizenship, academic integrity, and other online behavior expectations, check out **DVS Guidelines for Student Behavior** in the DVS Handbook.

Digital Footprint

Your digital footprint contains a permanent record of what you do online, including the sites you visit and the things you share. It even includes the data trail that you unintentionally leave, like websites that install cookies on your devices, apps that use your geolocation, as well as social media that uses your likes, shares, and comments to build a profile about you.

Unlike footprints in the sand, your digital footprint can follow you throughout your life. In this video you will learn about the importance of your online reputation and how your unique set of traceable digital activities, actions, contributions, and communications manifested on the Internet or digital devices can impact you. (Common Sense Education, 2021)

Direct Link: Follow the Digital Trail - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bRZdUtmH8k>

Your interactions on social media are also considered part of your digital footprint. Social media can be a great place to connect, learn, and, most of all, share with friends and family. However, be cautious of oversharing. You are not obliged to share every second or moment of your life. Before you post, consider how what you share online can impact you and how others view you. Reflect on when and why you post something online and be think about how what you post makes you feel. It is okay to talk to your friends and family about your boundaries for tagging or posting about each other. As you watch this video, think about what oversharing means to you. (Common Sense Education, 2021)

Direct Link: Oversharing and Your Digital Footprint - <https://youtu.be/ottnH427Fr8>

Privacy and Security

Privacy is more than just what you choose to share or not share online. Never share private information online. Private information includes things that can identify you, like your full name, address, telephone number, birthday, and even which school you attend. You can share personal information, like your hobbies and favorite colors. Just be sure that the personal information that you do share is safe, responsible, and respectful. If you're not sure what is safe to share, ask a trusted adult. (Common Sense Education, 2021)

So, how do you know who you are talking to online is really who they say they are? Watch this video, then consider who you are talking to online.

Direct Link: Who You're Talking to Online - https://youtu.be/DiI8Lj0_TGQ

For more information on online privacy and security, go to the FBI's interactive [Safe Online Surfing](#) (FBI-SOS) site. The goal of FBI-SOS is to promote digital citizenship and help students learn about online safety while engaging in fun, interactive games. It was designed to address current Internet safety threats while keeping your specific grade level's online usage and knowledge in mind. We hope that you find the website beneficial and that you use the information to make yourself a safer digital citizen.

Online privacy and security is more than protecting your private information, it's also about preventing and protecting you from cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like smartphones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through texts and apps on smartphones and tablets, as well as online in social media and video games where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, mean, or threatening content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Sometimes, cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior. In this video reflect and decide if the actions are cyberbullying or not.

Direct Link: Is it cyberbullying? - <https://youtu.be/vtfMzmkYp9E>

Because social media and other digital platforms (including comments, photos, posts, and content) can often be viewed by strangers as well as their acquaintances, cyberbullying can harm the online reputations of everyone involved, not just the person being bullied, but also those doing the bullying or participating in it. The content a person shares online – both their personal content as well as any negative, mean, or hurtful content – creates a permanent public record of their views, activities, and behavior. This public record can be thought of as an online reputation, which may be accessible to schools, employers, colleges, clubs, and others who may be researching an individual now or in the future. With this in mind, all states have laws requiring schools to respond to bullying. As cyberbullying

has become more common with the increasing use of technology, many states now include cyberbullying, or mention cyberbullying offenses, under these laws. Schools may take action either as required by law, or with local or school policies that allow them to discipline or take other action. DoDEA does not tolerate bullying of any type, including cyberbullying, and has implemented a system-wide bully prevention program. DVS has a moral obligation to provide our students and the school community with the proper information, prevention strategies, and defenses to create a safe, accepting, and caring environment for all. For more information on school policies regarding cyberbullying, check out [DVS Guidelines for Student Behavior](#) in the DVS Handbook.

Check out [Stopbullying.gov's](#) Cyberbullying site for more information on cyberbullying, preventing cyberbullying, as well as how to deal with “haters”.