

(Taught by school counselor in guidance)

Strand: Healthy Relationships (1)

Lesson: Digital Communication Safety

Grade: 6

Materials needed: Chromebooks, ability to project from computer

Learning objectives:

HR.8.CC.5 Describe the advantages and disadvantages of communicating using technology and social media

HR.8.INF.1 Analyze the ways in which friends, family, media, society and culture can influence relationships

HR.8.INF.2 Analyze the impact of technology and social media on friendships and relationships

HR.8.IC.3 Demonstrate effective skills to negotiate agreements about the use of technology in relationships

HR.8.GS.1 Develop a plan to stay safe when using technology and social media

HR.8.SM.2/HR.12.SM.2 Describe strategies to use technology and social media safely, legally and respectfully

Lesson plan:

Survey students about their use of social media, either through an informal question/answer in class or through an anonymous survey in Google forms. Sample questions can include their access to technology, the sites and apps they most often use, the amount of time they spend on their devices, and the amount of parent supervision and discussions about safety they have at home.

Show video on social media (2:06 minutes).

<https://www.netsmartz.org/TeensTalkBack/SocialNetworking>

Lead discussion (What are your thoughts about...)

- Sharing your phone number?
- Who you friend/follow on social media?
- Privacy settings?
- What you post?
- Parents checking your texts, pictures and/or accounts?

Show video on sharing passwords (1:50 minutes).

<https://www.netsmartz.org/RealLifeStories/BrokenFriendship>

Lead discussion on the importance of protecting phone and social media accounts with passwords.

Show video on sexting (2:25 minutes).

<https://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/YourPhotoFate>

Lead discussion on the dangers and legal ramifications of sending or possessing pictures of someone without some or all of their clothes. Stress that if a student receives an inappropriate picture they should immediately tell an adult.

Show videos on sextortion and online predation (1:00 minute and 3:06 minutes).

<https://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/Sextortion>

<https://www.netismartz.org/RealLifeStories/JuliesJourney>

Lead discussion on sextortion (either by an online predator or a peer) and online predators. Discuss the dangers of meeting an online “friend” in real life without an adult’s supervision.

Closure/reflection: Review the importance of keeping safe while using digital devices. Have students identify 3-5 adults with whom they can talk about digital communication safety.