![My Child/My Student - Parents and Teachers Communicating]

Student Safety Topic: Cyber & Social Media Security

Why it's Important
Social media offers many educational benefits, including the ability to connect with others around the world. With these benefits social media also brings a heightened risk of concern, such as cyberbullying. As family members and educators, it is important to be mindful of both the advantages and disadvantages of using social media, while also preparing children/students to be good digital citizens.

Prepare Your Child/Student
- Start early by teaching your child/student responsible internet behaviors that promote safety. Lead by example!
- Limit the use of internet-connected devices to approved websites and social media sites.
- Talk to your child/student about cyberbullying and what is considered appropriate online behavior. Be sure to talk about what to do if he/she feels threatened.

Start the Conversation…
- How does volunteering help my child/my student academically?
- What volunteer activities are available for my child/my student?
- How can I promote the importance of volunteering?
- What internet safety tips do I need to share with my child/my student?
- How can I promote the safe use of social media and the internet?
- What steps do I take if my child/my student encounters unsafe behavior on the internet?

College & Career Readiness Topic: Volunteering

Getting Started

Finding volunteer opportunities is as simple as a click of the mouse. Earlier this year the state launched VolunteerAR.org, an easy-to-use website that connects volunteers with organizations around the state. Nonprofit, faith-based, government and community-based groups use the website to promote wide-ranging volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can use the site to keep track of their hours and connect with various organizations.

Learn From the Experience

Once your child/student starts volunteering, he/she will quickly begin to learn from the experience. Volunteering gives children a sense of responsibility, the opportunity to learn new skills and the ability to connect with others in the community.

According to VolunteerAR.org, youth volunteerism can result in improved communication and teamwork skills. It also provides project planning and leadership experience that can lead to student success.

In addition to the great social and emotional advantages, many jobs and universities give special consideration to students who volunteer on a regular basis. Some organizations also offer scholarships to students who contribute to the community.

Visit our webpage for additional resources and links!
http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student