

## What is “Digital Citizenship” and why is it important?

“Digital Citizenship includes the awareness of every aspect of technology use such as: plagiarizing information, passive and aggressive cyberbullying, reporting issues of safety, being acutely aware of one’s digital footprint, etc... It has become alarmingly more apparent that students and their parents/guardians must be better informed and equipped with knowledge of the consequences of such behaviors. There must be a clear understanding by students and their families that when their digital footprint is compromised, at stake are things of value, such as: rejection from college admissions, long-term employer scrutinization, fiscal loss, and personal intimidation and/or harm from others.”

-Dr. Larry Feldman, School Board Member, District 9, Miami-Dade

In an effort to assist our students and their families with navigating this difficult issue, MDCPS implemented the following in 2016:

1. Incorporation of Digital Citizenship into the Values Matter Campaign.
2. Monthly Digital Citizenship lessons for students embedded in the Values Matter Campaign.
3. Encouragement of Schools to implement additional Digital Citizenship activities from Common Sense, a non-profit organization that offers free Digital Citizenship materials and resources to schools.
4. Invitation to schools to participate in a no-cost Digital Citizenship certification program through Common Sense. Link: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/>

MDCPS also has a webpage dedicated to providing information to students, parents, and schools about Digital Citizenship. Found here: [http://digital.dadeschools.net/digital\\_citizenship.asp](http://digital.dadeschools.net/digital_citizenship.asp)

The Palmetto Middle PTSA wants to support ALL of our students and help create a safe and enriching learning environment. We will be offering education and training for our parents at least once a year to support our families in helping our students be good Digital Citizens. Please refer to the above resources for more information and, as always, please feel free to reach out to your PTSA Board and our Principal, Mr. Jesus Gonzalez, with any concerns or questions regarding this very important issue.

# The 9 Elements of Digital Citizenship

