Parkside Safe Technology and Digital Citizenship Report
2023-2024

What devices are being used, and how are classes using them?
Chromebooks: Chromebooks are being used in Grades K-6. All students have access to Chromebooks for all content areas. Chromebooks are used as a learning device to support curriculum. Students work in outside platforms such as Newsela, Lexia, Typing Agent, NearPod, Zearn, and Google Classroom to increase student engagement and learning outcomes. ipads are used in K-2.

What are the main applications, programs, and sites used in different classes, grade levels, and subject areas?
Students in grades K-6 are using many different programs. Chosen programs depend on student need and subject area. See the Elementary Apps MCSD document for approved apps. Students may use, at any given time, the apps that are paid for by the district or are free to use.

What supervision practices are in place when students are online?
District filters are in place for internet searching. In classes, computer work is teacher directed and closely monitored with approved applications and sites on the students' Clever screens. Access to the internet or unapproved sites is prohibited unless supervision is in place or until the site is approved and added to Clever. Student screens must remain visible at all times. NetRef is used to block and approve sites, as well as letting teachers see all screens at the same time.

Are there management tools used that allow teachers to digitally monitor student use or limit access to come applications or sites?

NetRef is used to monitor here and at school.

What are the school rules when inappropriate information appears for students, staff, and parents?
When working on digital devices, students have been instructed by all teachers to immediately lower their Chromebook screen halfway and report inappropriate information that may appear to the nearest adult. If inappropriate information appears as a result of violating a class/school rule or procedure (accessing unapproved websites, etc.), consequences range from a warning to a loss of privilege or a police referral, depending on severity.

Are there safe reporting procedures for students, staff, and parents so that reporting is safe and encouraged?
When working on digital devices, students have been taught the importance of knowing and understanding that the use of technology must be respected and valued; they have been instructed by all teachers to immediately lower their Chromebook screen halfway and report inappropriate information that may appear to the nearest adult. Students who witness any suspicious activity have been taught to safely report to teachers or adults in the building either in person or in writing. Reporting is always encouraged and reporting procedures are reviewed frequently. Students are also made aware of the SafeUT app if reporting needs to be done after and in an alternate, safe environment.

How does the school balance access and safety for the grade levels at your school?

Teachers are encouraged to put all websites they use on Clever. This allows them access to the website, without having to type in the URL, creating a possibility of accessing unapproved or irrelevant sites.

What does the administration see as important opportunities for our students related to constructive, proactive technology use?

- School Administration supports the following key goals for blended and digital learning for Parkside Elementary:

    1. Teachers will commit to using technology as a teaching tool that will enhance student learning experiences and engagement. They will provide support and time to students in this process and be open and willing to learn and try new programs and processes.
    2. Administrators will commit to supporting teachers and students, no matter the comfortability or exposure level, and provide opportunities and time for teachers to learn. Administrators will help students, teachers, and parents understand digital citizenship in order to protect the student's safety.
    3. Students will commit to using technology as a learning tool and will revise their perception of technology as merely a communication and gaming tool. They will acquire the skills needed to be successful with technology in order to be college and career ready. They will commit to high levels of digital citizenship.
    4. Parents will commit to supporting the blended learning initiative in their homes. They will work with schools in supporting digital citizenship including student exploration of new learning tools. They will respect technology that is brought home and support students in the blended learning initiative.

What training is currently provided to students about digital citizenship and safe use of technology?

All teachers are required to complete a Digital Citizenship course online.

Students are required to participate in Digital Citizenship lessons. Interland is offered by Google to help kids be safe and confident explorers of the online world.

Nearpod lessons are available for teachers to use as well. Lessons are available that cover the following topics:

1. Relationships and Communication
2. Cyberbullying and Internet Safety
3. Security and Passwords
4. Information Literacy (copyright and plagiarism)

What training or information is provided to parents about how to discuss and support digital citizenship and safe technology use with their children and how to report inappropriate content?

Parents are always encouraged to report inappropriate content to either their child's teacher or the school administration. Parents should be kept apprised of their child's classroom technology usage through classroom parent newsletters, Parent Teacher Conferences, and beginning of year disclosure statements. School wide sharing and information will continue to be improved as the school administrator works with the School Community Council to identify parent needs/wants and appropriate ways to share/distribute information. Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in ParentSquare.