



# Big Flats News

March 2019

*At Big Flats Elementary,  
we will SOAR together  
as we explore our "wonders"  
in a fun and engaging  
community, where we will  
inspire each other to achieve  
anything!*

*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

I would like to thank all of you for your support regarding the letter from Dr. Thomas Douglas advising parents of the trending social media concerns impacting not only our community, but others across the world. As a parent myself, I know how difficult it can be to monitor your child's internet activities, as well as their internet gaming. However, I cannot encourage parents enough to ALWAYS be vigilant in knowing what apps and games your children are accessing as well as who they are connecting with. My personal advice to you is to set specific parameters for your child's internet activity. First, only allow your child to be on their electronic devices in the presence of an adult. Be listening to the game as you multitask. Occasionally walk by your child's screen and view what is on it. Second, set a specific amount of time that your child can use their devices and stick to your set limited time. Always look for the recommended age and refer to any parental controls for additional information. I recently learned myself that there is an app for parents of children who use the Nintendo Switch. The app is called Nintendo Switch Parental Controls by Nintendo Co., Ltd. Lastly, talk to your child about their internet time. Ask them questions about what they are playing, who they are playing with, and remind your children that if anything ever scares them, doesn't sound or look right, or someone tells them NOT to tell their parents, that is a red flag and they MUST tell you immediately! For additional resources on how best to support your child with digital citizenship, please refer to the GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Newsletter attached in each month's school newsletter. For immediate access to those newsletters, please click the following link:

<http://www.gstric.org/digital-citizenship/news/index.cfm>

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to outreach me.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth M. Scaptura*

Elizabeth Scaptura,  
Principal

**Horseheads Central School District** sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

*Explore*

*Empower*

*Excel*

## **Elementary Lunches (K-6)**

School Food Services prices for the 2018-2019 school year will be:

Breakfast: \$1.25

Lunch: \$2.10

## **School Hours**

Hours for the Elementary Schools are:

8:15 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

## **Office Hours**

Our school office hours during regular school days are:

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## **Office Phone Numbers**

(607) 739-6373

(607) 795-2550

Fax: (607) 795-2555

**Wednesday, March 20, 2019**



*Daylight savings: March 10*

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

### • Cell Phone Use Reminder

*Cell phones and all hand-held electronic devices interfere with the educational process and are not allowed in the classroom or to be used during the school day. This also includes smart watches. It is highly recommended that these devices be left at home. If seen out and being used by a student during the school day, the device will be taken and kept in the office safe until a parent or guardian picks this item up.*

### • \*5th GRADE CLASS PLACEMENTS

"The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2019-2020 classroom placements for students. We create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs that should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School by **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**. We look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success! Thanks!"

## Budget Development Calendar

The Board of Education and district are currently developing the proposed 2019-20 School Budget to be offered to voters May 21. Here is a schedule of public meetings regarding the proposed budget. All are welcome. The Multi-Media Center is located in the south wing of Horseheads High School.

Thursday, March 7	Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6pm
Thursday, March 20	Board of Education Regular Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 4	Budget Workshop, Multi-Media Center, 6pm
Wednesday, April 24	Board of Education Meeting, Multi-Media Center, 6 p.m.
Thursday, April 25	Budget Q&A, Big Flats Town Hall, 7 p.m.
Monday, April 29	Budget Q&A, Horseheads Town Hall, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 30	Budget Q&A, Horseheads Village Hall, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 2	Budget Q&A, Erin Town Hall, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	(tentative) Board of Education Candidates' Forum, Multi-Media Center, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 9	Public Hearing, Multi-Media Center, 6 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, May 21</b>	<b>Budget Vote/Board of Education Election, High School South Gym, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m.</b>

For more information on the proposed budget, including videos and presentations from the Board of Education meetings above, please visit the district website at <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/2019-20%20Budget%20Information.cfm?school=District>.

### \*Attention 4th Grade Students and Parents

The Intermediate School will host an Open House and Presentation to current 4th grade students and parents on Monday, March 25 beginning at 6:00 PM in the Middle School cafeteria. Mr. Bostwick and Mrs. Doubrava will share information on the Intermediate School. Following the presentation, students and their families are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the school. We look forward to meeting you!

### ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS

To provide schools and parents with an assessment of student achievement, New York State has developed the New York State Testing Program. These standardized tests challenge all students in grades 3 through 8 to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. Please visit the site at <http://engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>. If you are interested in viewing this site but do not have access to the Internet, please call the school office so that we can make arrangements for you to see this guide.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA – April 3-4, 2019

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Math – May 1-2, 2019

4<sup>th</sup> grade Science Performance Test – May 22, 2019

4<sup>th</sup> grade Science Written Test - June 3, 2019

## Wish List for Innovation Lab:

- ⇒ **FABRIC REMNANTS**
- ⇒ **YARN**
- ⇒ **TOILET PAPER ROLLS**
- ⇒ **PAPER TOWEL ROLLS**
- ⇒ **CONTAINERS (OATS, TUPPERWARE, ETC.)**

Our Art Room is on Instagram! Search **#MrsVencesArtRoom** to see all of the fun and exciting projects our students have been creating all year in art class!

*Don't forget!*

## The Winter Festival 2019

**Saturday, March 2nd 1-3pm**

Games

Food

Basket Raffle

Prizes

## Please join us for the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade!

*Saturday, March 16, 2019*

Students can be dropped off at the field house, which can be accessed by using Broad Street to Division Street at 1:45pm. There will be no parking on Division Street or at the field house; parents may use Steuben Street or Carroll Street to park or exit the area after dropping off. **The Parade starts at 2:00pm.** Parents may walk/ride with students and staff! If dropping your child off, pick up will be on North Street at approximately 2:30pm.

*We hope to see you there!*



## Spirit Days!

**March 1**

Dr. Seuss/PJ Day

**March 8**

Crazy Socks Day

**March 14**

Wear **Green**

**March 22**

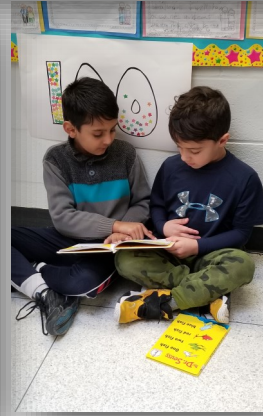
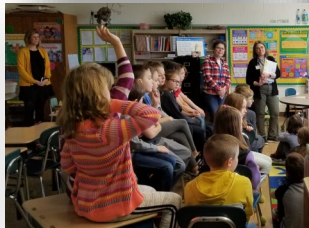
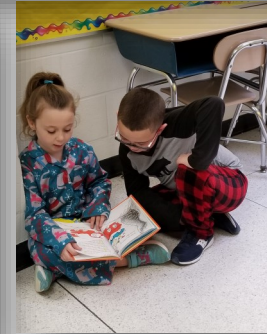
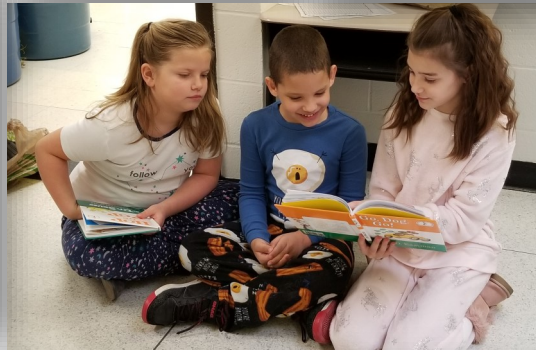
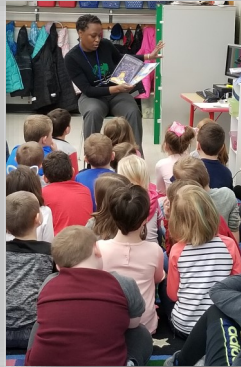
Favorite Sports Team

**March 29**

Wear Bright Colors







## *Big Flats Falcons: A day in the life...*

*Photos from the Black History Month Read-In, Valentine's for Veterans, 100th Day Celebration, Read Across the Hall, and Dr. Seuss' Birthday/ Pajama Day!*

*Falcons SOAR!*



## Mark Your Calendars

### March 1

*Spirit Day—Dr. Seuss/PJ Day!*

### March 2

Winter Festival; BF Café & Gym

### March 5

PTO Meeting; 6:00pm, BF Comm Ctr

### March 8

*Spirit Day—Crazy Sock Day!*

### March 9

Scripps Regional Spelling Bee;  
9:00am, Corning-PP Middle School

### March 14

*Spirit Day—Wear **Green!***

### March 15

**NO SCHOOL**-Superintendent's  
Conference Day

### March 16

St. Patrick's Day Parade; 1:45pm

### March 20

BOE Meeting; 6:00pm, MMC

### March 22

*Spirit Day—Favorite Sports Team!*

### March 29

*Spirit Day—Wear Bright Colors!*

### Learn Up-To-Date Information About Our Schools and the District

**Facebook:** The district and each of our  
seven schools have pages. "Like" them to see  
our information in your news feed.

**Twitter:** Follow us on Twitter at  
**@HhdsSchools** to read our tweets.  
Follow Mrs. Scaptura on Twitter at  
**@escaptura1**

**Instagram:** The district's page—  
**hhdsschools**

Visit our district website at:

**[www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com)**.

Questions about our website or social media?

E-mail **[hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)**



Please pull tabs for Ronald McDonald!



[PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com](mailto:PullTabs4McDonalds@yahoo.com)

Pull tabs for Ronald McDonald Charities!  
Tabs will be picked up mid-May.

Send in your box  
tops to earn cash  
for our school!



The Horseheads Central School District is looking for interested individuals for several job positions: cleaner, bus driver, food service worker, as well as substitute clerical, nurse, cleaner, and food service worker. We seek candidates who are 18 or older, including retired community members. To apply, complete our district application and submit it, along with all required documents, to Human Resources, south wing of Horseheads High School. The district application may be found here: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/uploadeddocs/application.pdf> or picked up at our Human Resources Office. Questions? Email us at [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

## March —The month of:

### RESPECT

- Follow the Golden Rule
- Be tolerant and accepting
- Deal peacefully with anger and insults
- Use good manners, not bad language
- Be considerate of the feelings of others
- Don't threaten, hit, or hurt anyone



### Dignity Act Coordinator

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Big Flats Elementary is Elizabeth Scaptura. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Mrs. Scaptura at (607)-739-6373. The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601 x4211, or [cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com).

### Non-Discrimination Notification

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

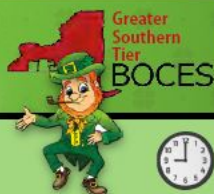
This policy of non-discrimination includes access by students to educational programs, counseling services, course offerings, and activities, as well as recruitment and appointment of employees and employment pay, benefits, advancement and/or termination.



# Digital Citizen News - March 2019

Volume 2 : Issue 7 - March 2019

**Have a Great Month!**



TIME FOR A REALITY CHECK-UP?

IT'S MARCH - DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR STUDENTS/CHILDREN ARE DOING ONLINE?

**This month we highlight what is happening with Digital Citizenship in another of our local school districts. See the feature on page 2.**

**IF YOU HAVE SOME INTERESTING DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP ACTIVITIES HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT LET US KNOW ABOUT IT. SEND US AN EMAIL at [dc@gstbooces.org](mailto:dc@gstbooces.org)**

\* \* \* \* \*

**This issue we also take another look at Digital Equity and making sure all students have the same opportunities with technology devices and learning.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Check out this month's printable poster with a picture of a great digital citizen on it!**

The main objective of the GST Digital Citizenship Initiative is to raise awareness of Digital Citizen topics and techniques among the teachers, students, and parents in GST BOCES' 21 Component School Districts.

For more information and materials about Digital Citizenship visit our website at <http://dc.gstbooces.org>.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Filter a website, and you protect a student for a day. Educate students about online safety in the real world environment, and you protect your child for a lifetime."\*

Christopher Harris @ifthenchris  
Coordinator, School Library System  
Genesee Valley BOCES

This quote from a fellow New York State educator makes a solid point. It appears at first to just be a variation on the old "Give a man a fish..." axiom, but it does clearly state the value of giving students the knowledge that they need to be successful, and educating them to live morally and ethically in the ever encroaching online world.

Today's children will live in a world where they are required to live, work, communicate, and socialize online. We need to help them build frameworks and standards for themselves that will allow them to protect their identities and personal data to assure success in their futures. They will also need to develop ways to shield themselves from influences like fake news and information sources that have negative biases.

Technologies do exist for filtering and blocking websites, social media, and instant messaging but they can't catch everything. New sites pop up every day, and ways are developed to get around blocking and filtering apps. Some students see the fact that they are being filtered as an incentive to try to access the blocked, forbidden content. The challenge to beat the technology makes them try harder, and when exploits are discovered they spread rapidly among student populations.

### A few more thoughts about Internet Filtering

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), enacted in 2001, stipulates that schools and libraries must block or filter Internet images that may be harmful to minors. Schools regulated by CIPA must also adopt policies to monitor minors' activities online.

A 2003 study by the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the Online Policy Group found that even schools that use minimal Internet blocking and filtering software block tens of thousands of websites without harmful content. This over-blocking limits Internet access for students and teachers.

More on filtering at <http://go.gstric.org/207-filter>



Sign Up to receive this newsletter in your email inbox

Scan this QR code with your phone, or go to <http://go.gstbooces.org/dncwv-signup> in your browser.

Send comments, suggestions, and questions to [dc@gstbooces.org](mailto:dc@gstbooces.org)  
Visit <http://dc.gstbooces.org>

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# HENDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Family, School, Community: Together We Succeed

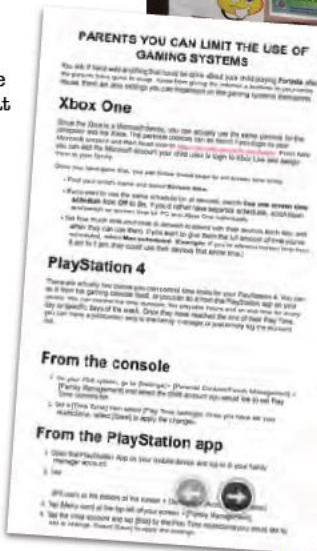


There are lots of great things going on at Hendy Elementary School in Elmira. We caught up with Hendy's Tech TA, Mary Fran Troccla, who shared with us some of the things Hendy students are learning about Digital Citizenship.

The top two images show some of the posters around the computer lab that teach students about digital citizenship. To the right are two more images captured from a short video that some students made.

The first part of the video is about some students who send an unflattering picture of a student with the word ugly on it to everyone in class, and the aftermath of that action. The second part of the video shows some positive visual messages about avoiding bullying and cyberbullying. One other item that Mary Fran shared was a document that was sent home to parents who were concerned about how much time their children were spending on video games.

Thanks to Hendy School in Elmira and Mary Fran for sharing this info with us!



Let's make  
**HENDY**

**BULLY  
FREE  
ZONE**



# Social Media Information

Social Media sites are very pervasive on the Internet, and it seems that every news story or advertisement on TV invites you to like them on \_\_\_\_\_ (insert your favorite social media name here).

Parents know that their children and their friends are connected almost constantly through these sites every day. But what kind of social media use is appropriate at what age?, and how much time each day should be allowed? - those are important questions that parents struggle with.

Here are some links to good information for parents trying to deal with social media use with their kids.

From [KidsHealth.org](http://KidsHealth.org) - Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media - <http://go.gstric.org/207-smart>

From [PsychologyToday.com](http://PsychologyToday.com) - Why Social Media is Not Smart for Middle School Kids <http://go.gstric.org/207-notsmart>

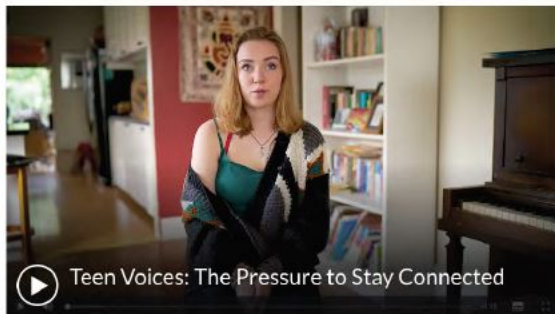
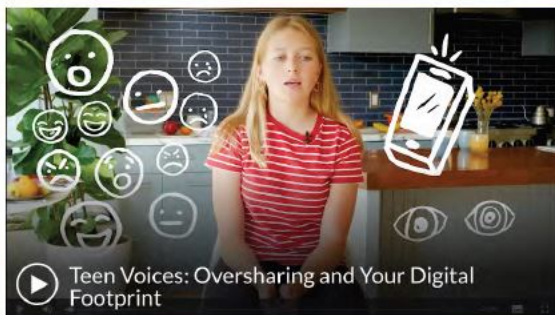
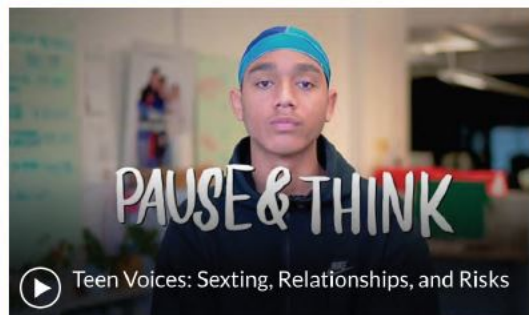
## APPROPRIATE USES OF SOCIAL MEDIA

"You are the key to your safety!"



EXPLORE THIS SMORE NEWSLETTER ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA <http://go.gstric.org/207-smore>

## COMMON SENSE MEDIA

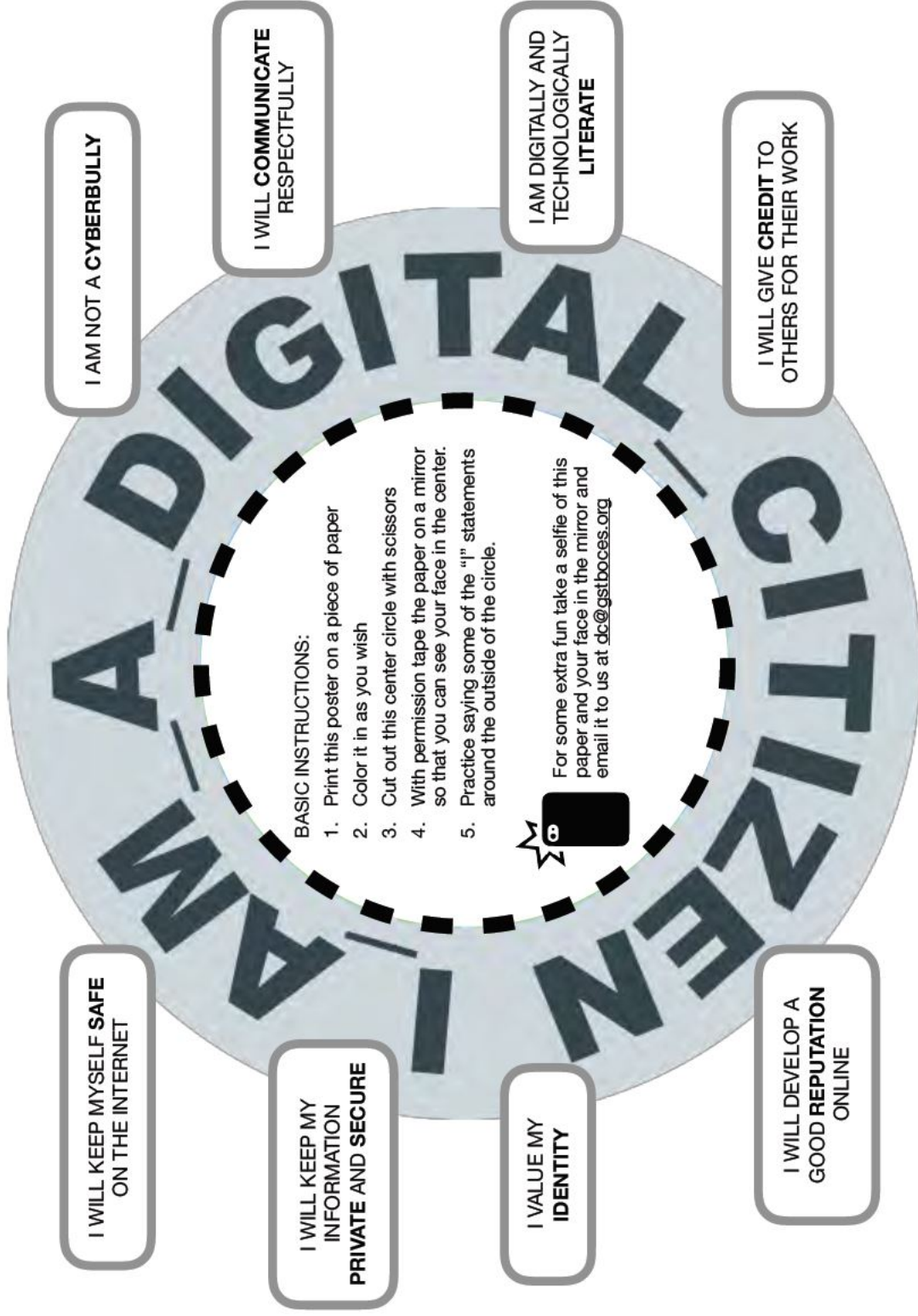


The Video Library at Common Sense Media has a lot of great, short videos that can be used in the classroom or at home by interested teachers or parents. They make great lead-ins to discussion of lots of Digital Citizenship topics - visit the site using this link. <http://go.gstric.org/207-commonvideo>





## MARCH 2019 Digital Citizenship Poster - Color it in and put it on a mirror.



## Report to PARENTS

# Helping Children Cope With Tragedy

*Young children shouldn't have to learn about tragic events, but they do. Some are exposed to disasters firsthand, as victims. Others discover the tragedies by watching the news or overhearing adults or other children discussing the events. It is a sad fact that all children need to know how to deal with tragic events—and their parents and caregivers need to know how to help them cope.*

### IF YOUR CHILD IS THE VICTIM OF A DISASTER:

**Try to stay calm.** Children often react the way they see adults react. As difficult as it is, it is very important for you to remain calm and reassuring, and to let your children know that, no matter what, they will be taken care of.

**Explain, but don't provide unnecessary details.** Clearly, children need to know the truth, but they don't need to hear about all of the consequences. Give them the facts that they need to know at that moment, but don't share with them your fears about the future.

**Make time to talk to your children.** In disastrous situations, adults are often so preoccupied with the immediate needs that they forget their children are aware of what's happening. Make sure they know they can talk to you, and that you'll spend the time they need answering their questions and comforting them.

**Get counseling.** It is important to help children cope with serious life-changing events. Talk with the school counselor about the situation, then set up a time for your children to come in and "vent." Follow-up appointments with the counselor or other experts can help your children overcome their fears.

### IF YOUR CHILD IS AWARE OF A TRAGIC EVENT

**Limit TV coverage.** Because children can be overwhelmed with the tragedy, limit their TV exposure of the event. Instead, check in periodically with the news, and focus on finding ways to distract your children with other activities.

**Be extra comforting.** Even if they don't seem to be alarmed, children who are aware of disastrous events can absorb the trauma and be quietly disturbed. Make extra time for quiet activities with your children, such as reading or taking a walk; and give them plenty of hugs.

**Watch for behavior changes.** Children often don't talk about being afraid, but their behavior can be a clue that they're scared. They might have a hard time sleeping or might wake up from a bad nightmare. Sometimes, they adopt behaviors, like thumb sucking, bedwetting, or baby talk. Others get irrationally angry or sad, and many withdraw and stop socializing. If you see any of these behaviors after a traumatic event, it means your child needs extra help and comfort.

**Make sure they know that there are people in charge who are helping.**

Children need to know that things will eventually be okay again and that there are adults in charge who are helping to make it right. Talk to your children about the people who are helping resolve the consequences of the disaster, and share your admiration with them about the great work these people are doing.

**Do something for others.** One way to help children cope in the aftermath of a disaster is to find a way, through your community, to help those affected. Schools, churches, temples, synagogues, and organizations like the Red Cross are great places to go to find out how you and your children can help.

