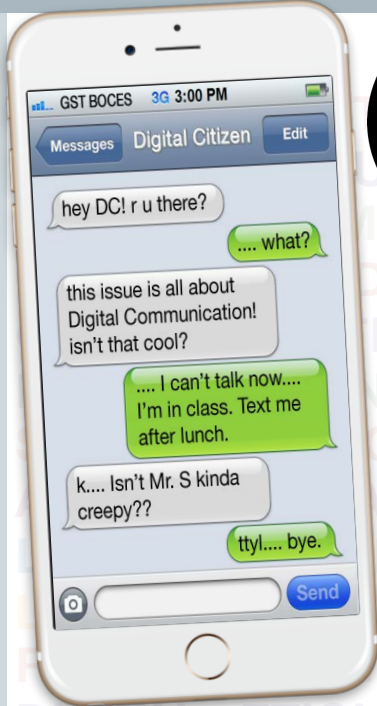




The Newsletter of the GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative - Volume I - Issue 4 - December 2017



Digital Communication

September's topic was **Digital Law**. October focused on **Digital Rights and Responsibilities**. November informed us about **Digital Etiquette**, and now for December we will cover...

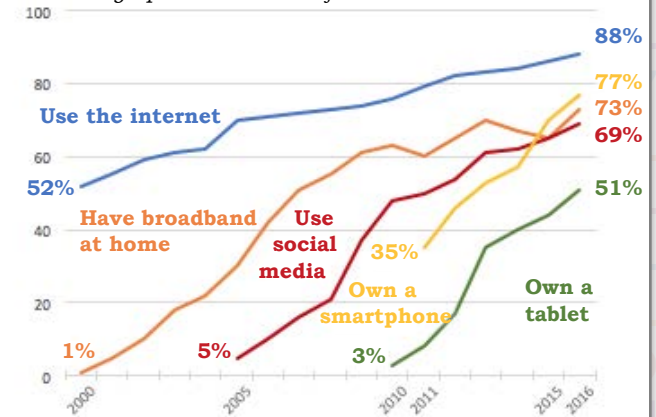
Digital Communication is a big topic. We all communicate every day using various digital technologies whether talking on the phone, texting or messaging, viewing information and responding to it on web sites, or sending email.

Twitter, SnapChat, iMessage, Skype, and many other apps pop up on our devices and grab our attention. News apps and notifications pop into our feeds and we can't ignore them. Even our President uses digital communication to express his thoughts on what is going on across our country.

Understanding digital communication and using it effectively are necessary skills for today's students.

The graph to the right shows the rapid growth of some technologies since 2000.

The evolution of technology adoption and usage
This graph shows the % of U.S. adults who ...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Source: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/01/12/evolution-of-technology/>

THINK ABOUT IT: How many different types of digital communication do you use each week? How about each day? Does your school use digital communications? Do you regularly communicate digitally with friends? How about people you don't know or have never met in real life?

TRY THIS ACTIVITY

Ask your parents some questions.
How much does our family spend each month...

- .. on housing (rent or mortgage)?
- .. on heating, electricity, and water (utilities)?
- .. on food and clothing (necessities)?
- .. on transportation (cars, gas, etc.)?
- .. other household items?

Then ask them.
How much does our family spend each month...
... on communications (phones, internet, cable, Netflix, etc.)?

How do the numbers compare?
What percentage of the total spending is spent on each item?

What percent is spent on Digital Communication? ?? %

In a Manner of Speaking ...

Digital Communicators have developed shorthand methods for communicating quickly. Here are some abbreviations of common expressions found in texts, chats, and emails. How many do you know?

BRB	BFF	BTW	F2F	FYI
G2G	IDK	IMHO	IRL	JK
LOL	NE1	NP	NSFW	NVM
OMG	PLS	PPL	ROFL	SMH
THX	TMI	TTFN	TTYL	TY
YW	WTF	The answers are on the Newsletter web page. Follow the link at the bottom of page 2		



ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE: Try to make a change by only tweeting positive comments for a week or so. Can you change the outlook of others by complimenting them on Twitter?



If you have comments or suggestions about this newsletter contact dc@gstboces.org

Visit our website at <http://dc.gstboces.org>

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USING NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Much of our digital communication today is very conversational in nature. However, we must realize that sometimes this makes it hard for the person receiving the communication to understand exactly what we mean. In face to face (F2F) conversations we use things like our tone of voice, facial expressions, and gestures to aid in conveying the meaning of what we say. In email, text messages, tweets, or chat we don't have the luxury of those non-verbal cues to assist us in decoding the sender's meaning.

Take a quickly typed text message like "Oh. Great. This is just what I needed today." Is this person happy? Did they really get something great? Or are they being sarcastic and their day has really been terrible? It is very hard to know from just reading the words themselves.

Because of this, digital communicators have developed ways of adding meaning to their text thoughts in the form of **emoticons** or **emojis**.

- An **emoticon** is usually just some typographical characters put together to symbolize a feeling or emotion. For example, a colon followed by a right parentheses represents a smile, and a semi-colon followed by a right parentheses represents a wink.

Over time these symbols developed into actual tiny graphic files showing all kinds of facial expressions and even some icons. These playful images are known as **emojis**, and they have become so popular and widely used that they even have a feature film made about them. These icons continue to develop and some of them today even include animations or digital video in them.

It is important to note that though a lot of digital communication is very informal and conversational, these types of communication like emojis, icons, and text abbreviations may not be appropriate for use in formal business communications or school assignments or homework. Use the proper type of communication for each situation.



Digital Communication goes far beyond text. Sites like **Instagram** and **SnapChat** allow you to easily post image and video content (with or without text). You can create audio and video **Podcasts** and share them online. And of course **Youtube** and **Vimeo** take video content to a much higher level - not to mention the capability to **live stream** video from any device with a camera. Make sure you know how to properly use them all.



WORKING TOGETHER DIGITALLY VIDEO RESOURCES

This web site from InCtrl has some great resources for teaching Digital Citizenship. The section on Working Together Digitally specifically addresses the need to collaborate and communicate effectively when working online.

There are two well done videos (both under 3 minutes) - one is for students and the other is for teachers.

<http://www.teachinctrl.org/lessons/worktogetherdigitally.php>

We recommend viewing them alone or with students.

KINDNESS IS BEAUTIFUL

WORLD KINDNESS DAY WAS NOVEMBER 13TH
HOW CAN WE PAY IT FORWARD TODAY?

GET THIS MONTH'S DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCE



This month you can download a printable PDF poster which stresses that Digital Communication should not be intended to harm others.

We hope you enjoy it.

<http://go.gstbores.org/dc-171201>

