



Dear Lower School Families,

Our children are growing up in a digital world. Digital media and technology are evolving at a rapid pace, bringing with it amazing opportunities and new challenges for our children. On the positive side, young people are using the internet and mobile technologies to create connect, explore and learn in ways never before imagined. However, challenges from harmful behaviors, from cyberbullying to digital cheating, are surfacing in schools and in homes across the country.

Aligned with our DRAGONS values and partnering with [Common Sense Media](#), St. Michael's is committed to teaching digital citizenship to all our students across all grade levels, with the goal of becoming certified as a Common Sense Media School.

On Monday, February 4, students in grades K-5 will begin taking part in ongoing classroom lessons from **Common Sense Education's K-12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum** led by our Instructional Technology team of Dave Grossman and Elisa Bennett, along with Librarian Carol Wise.

The first unit for grades K-2 is on *The Neighborhood* (how to go places safely on the internet, how to find things online, and how to give proper credit to their own work or the work of others.) Grades 3-5 will begin with the *Rings of Responsibility* (online privacy, the power of words/online bullying, and respect for other people's work.)

Common Sense Education takes a whole-community approach to digital citizenship by providing parent resources to help support your child's learning. As we engage in these lessons in class, we will be sending home parent tip sheets, videos, and an occasional activity worksheet for you to do together with your kids. You may also visit the Common Sense website at www.commonsense.org for more parent resources.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We look forward to working together to raise a generation of kids who become smart, responsible, ethical, and respectful digital citizens.

Sincerely,

Dave Grossman, Director of Technology
Elisa Bennett, Instructional Technology Specialist/Teacher
Carol Wise, Head Librarian