**Secondary Guidance Lesson**

*Managing Technology*

**Objective:** To help students understand and recognize the importance of being safe while using technology and the internet.

**Activity Suggestions:**

Group Discussion questions:

1. Going online and using the Internet can provide hours of entertainment and a wealth of information ― as well as lots of potential problems with hackers, scammers, and predators. How can you enjoy being online while staying safe? What online problems and threats do you take most seriously?
2. What’s your “digital footprint”? What does it tell others about you? Have you ever checked yours?
3. Think about the phrase “gone viral.” What does it say about the way things spread online? What kind of news or information tends to spread the fastest? Why?
4. Would you say access to online chatting, the Internet, and texting are a right or a responsibility for teens (or both)? Why?

**Group Activity:**

In groups of three or four, students will take a turn posing one particular question about online safety to the other students in the group; for example:

• “Have you ever done something online that you later regretted?”

• “What’s one rule about online safety that you always follow?”

• “What would you do if someone posted a terrible picture of you online?”

• “Would what you do if someone started sending you annoying text messages and wouldn’t stop?”

• “How have you adjusted the privacy settings on your Facebook page?”

• “How would you react if someone did something to make you feel uncomfortable online?”

Each student writes his or her question and the group’s responses, without names, on a sheet of paper. Then the teacher collects the sheets and reads the most interesting questions and answers aloud to the class.

**Follow-up/Closing:**

1. As a class, brainstorm a “do” list of online safety behaviors that you learned from this lesson.

2. As a class, brainstorm an anonymous “don’t do” list of regrettable online behaviors that classmates reported during this lesson.