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Madeira Middle Schoolers Learn Digital Citizenship

Digital Citizenship is a term given to the safe and responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, or digital devices to engage with other people on any level. For those reasons, it's a topic of growing concern among parents and educators in the cyber age in which today's students are living.

Madeira Middle School (MMS) sixth graders become more aware of thinking critically, behaving safely, and understanding that anything they post, email, or text can become permanent and part of their digital footprint forever. Digital Citizenship is woven into computer classes as part of the district's technology curriculum. In the school's computer classes, the 6th graders learn about balancing digital media use, identifying scams, creating positive digital footprints, privacy & security, and cyberbullying. They are also educated about chatting safely online and dealing with digital drama.

The district partners with the Madeira Police Department to strengthen and reinforce the importance of online safety. Chief Schaefer, Lieutenant Phillips, & Lieutenant Roy joined the classes recently to talk about online safety. The Police Department's presentation to the students included creating strong passwords, the importance of not sharing personal information, following the rules in place at home and school, and creating positive comments in all of their communications at home or school.

A pledge between the Police Department and the sixth graders states that as part of the Madeira culture students will be responsible for their actions on all devices in their possession, use the internet to build a positive self-image, learn from their mistakes, and mindfully create content. Officers also sent home a safe internet practices flyer to share with families, with the goal being to continue the conversations at home.

Pictured: Madeira Police Lieutenant James Roy stresses the importance of a strong password to six graders (l to r) Louie Moyer, Jude Cowden, and Jesse Spencer.

