# DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

If you use the internet to look up information, communicate with friends and family, or interact with others on social media, you are part of an online community that has both benefits and risks.  Daily, in our face to face exchanges, we make decisions about how to interact and what information to share with others.  It is equally important to know who and what you can trust online.

## THE INTERNET IS A PUBLIC SPACE

Even if you have privacy settings and passwords, the internet is always public and **anything shared on the internet is permanent**.  Sharing information online may seem harmless but there are a few things to consider:

- "Private" information becomes public once it's passed on.  You may share something in confidence with a 'friend,' but you have no control over who your friends share your content with.
- Most information posted online can be searched.  Why put information online that you would never tell a stranger?
- Information you share can be copied, altered, and sent to others without your knowledge.
- Information shared online is almost impossible to take down.  Even if you delete a picture or video from your phone or computer, you have no idea who else has saved it on their devices.  Social media sites own your information.
- There are no private conversations online.  If you wouldn't say something to someone in person, you shouldn't say it online.
- College Admission Advisors and Employers do look at social media information when screening candidates.

*DO NOT SHARE INFORMATION, PICTURES, or VIDEOS THAT WOULD EMBARRASS YOU OR OTHERS.  IF YOU WOULD NEVER WANT A FAMILY MEMBER, FUTURE EMPLOYER, OR SCHOOL TO SEE IT, DON'T POST IT.*