common sense education™

GRADE 3

Our Digital Citizenship Pledge

What makes a strong online community?

RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATION

We know the power of words & actions.

OVERVIEW

Belonging to various communities is important for kids' development. But some online communities can be healthier than others. Show your students how they can strengthen both online and in-person communities by creating norms that everyone pledges to uphold.

Students will be able to:

- Define what a community is, both in person and online.
- Explain how having norms helps people in a community achieve their goals.
- Create and pledge to adhere to shared norms for being in an online community.

Lesson Snapshot   **Estimated time: 45 mins.**

Warm Up:	What Makes a Strong Community?	15 mins.
Evaluate:	Online Community Norms	10 mins.
Create:	Group Pledge	10 mins.
Wrap Up:	Classroom Poster	10 mins.

Key Standards Supported

What You'll Need

Spanish-language student and family resources available soon!

- **Lesson Slides**
- Student Handout: Online Community Norms
    - **- Student Version**
    - **- Teacher Version**
- Poster: **Digital Citizenship Pledge**
- Lesson Quiz
    - **- Student Version**
    - **- Teacher Version**

Take-home resources

- **Family Tips**
- **Family Activities**

LESSON PLAN

Key Vocabulary:

community
a group of people who share the same interests or goals

digital citizen
someone who uses technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate

norm
a way of acting that everyone in a community agrees to

pledge
a promise or an oath that one makes

Warm Up: **What Makes a Strong Community?**   15 mins.

1. **Ask:** *How would you describe the people where you live? Do most people know each other? Take turns sharing your idea with your partner.* (**Slide 4**)

    Invite students to share out. If necessary, explain that where they live is a type of "community." It's their "neighborhood community."

2. **Invite** a student to volunteer to read aloud the definition of **community**: *a group of people who share the same interests or goals.* Ask: *Another community that you are a part of is this classroom. Using our definition, what makes this class a community?* (**Slide 5**)

   Invite two to three students to share out with the class. Emphasize that a classroom is a community because students all have something in common (similar age and grade) and they all have a similar goal (to learn).

3. **Project** the images of two different classrooms on **Slide 6** and ask: *Which classroom community would best reach everyone's shared goal of learning?*

   Give students a minute to view the images. Then invite students to explain their answers.

4. **Point** to the second image and say: *All the students in this classroom community have agreed to act in a certain way. These are called* _norms_. *Norms are ways of acting that everyone in a community agrees to. Norms help people in the community work toward their shared goals.*

5. **Ask:** *What are some norms that we all follow in this class? Take turns sharing your ideas with your partner.*

   Invite students to share their responses aloud with the class. As students provide specific examples of classroom norms, capture three to five of them on **Slide 7**.

Evaluate: **Online Community Norms**   10 mins.

1. **Say:** *Norms are also important for online communities. There are different types of online communities and, depending on their goals, they might have different norms that members are expected to follow.*

2. **Distribute** the **Online Community Norms Student Handout** to each student (see the **Teacher Version** of the handout for reference). Read the directions aloud. (**Slide 8**)

   Allow students five minutes to complete the handout. Then invite students to share their responses.

Create: **Group Pledge**   10 mins.

1. **Assemble** groups of four or five students and distribute the **Group Pledge Student Handout** to each group.

   Say: *Knowing how to follow the norms of an online community is important because it's part of being a good digital citizen. A digital citizen is someone who uses technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate. That means you get the rewards of being online -- like seeing cool videos and playing fun games -- without the negatives like people being mean or disrespectful to the community.* (**Slide 9**)

   Remind students that a pledge is a promise or an oath that a person makes.

2. **Assign** each group one of these four categories: share, respond, work, or play. It's OK if multiple groups work on the same category. Read the handout directions to students. (**Slide 10**)

3. **Give** students five minutes to agree on a norm and add it to their handout. As they work, circulate to provide support to any groups struggling to agree on a norm. Encourage students to go beyond "being nice" by coming up with specific examples, such as:

When I share with others…	When I respond with others…
- I post things that are fun and make people feel good. - I post things that help others. - I ask for permission before posting something about someone else.	- I read their comments carefully first. - I respond respectfully, even if I disagree. - I only post things I would feel comfortable saying to them in person.
When I work with others…	When I play with others…
- I give helpful feedback. - I ask for help when I need it. - I am open to others' ideas. - I disagree respectfully.	- I follow the rules of the game. - I play fair. - I keep my comments positive.

Wrap Up: **Classroom Poster**   10 mins.

1. **Invite** each group, one at a time, to come to the front of the room. Have one student from the group write the norm on the **Digital Citizenship Pledge Poster**, while another reads it aloud to the class. Have each person in the group sign the poster. Ask them to explain why they chose the norm that they did.

2. **Display** the poster in the classroom and refer to it when engaging in online activities. (Check out our additional digital citizenship **Classroom Posters**.)

3. **Collect** the group pledge handouts.

4. **Have** students complete the **Lesson Quiz**. Send home the **Family Activity** and **Family Tips** sheets.

Extension Activity:

Have students create a digital poster of their pledge using **Canva** or other great apps and websites for making posters. You can link to them from your classroom webpage.