



AACPS Digital Citizenship

Lesson Title: Manners: Do the Right Thing

Grade: 4

Time: 30 minutes

Overview:

Students learn that they should apply the same ethical principles in cyberspace that guide them in face-to-face situations.

Objectives:

- Recognize computer files, including Web sites, as property to be respected
- Explain that behavior in cyberspace should be the same good behavior used in face to face situations
- Give a example of how the "Golden Rule" can be applied in cyberspace

Materials:

- Activity sheets:

*Do the Right Thing
(2 pages)*

Site Preview

No Internet site is used in this lesson.

Maryland Technology Literacy Standards for Students (MTLSS):

Standard 2.0–Digital Citizenship:

Students will demonstrate an understanding of the history of technology, its implications on society and practice ethical, legal, and responsible use of technology to assure safety.

Activities:

Introduce:

- Describe the following to students: *A sixth grader bullies a third grader on the playground of a public park. What should you do about it?* (Stop the bully, ask an adult to help stop the bully, or report the bully to a police officer, teacher or parent.)
- Add: *That evening you are chatting in cyberspace. One girl bullies another girl and threatens to make her lose all her friends. What should you do?*

- **Distribute** Activity Sheet 1.
- Make sure students understand that all of the behaviors on the left are unethical, or wrong. Then have them complete the sheet by writing what they think about the behaviors on the right. **NOTE: Postpone discussion until students have read and applied the information on Activity Sheet 2.**
- **Distribute** Activity Sheet 2.
- Explain that there are many ways of expressing the "Golden Rule," such as "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you" or "Treat others as you wish to be treated," and then invite students to express it in their own words.
- Have students revisit Activity Sheet 1 and make changes or additions. They should recognize that all the behaviors on the right are unethical as well.

Closure:

- **Ask:** *Why shouldn't you disturb a computer file that is not yours?* (because if it does not belong to me, it is the property of someone else)
- **Ask:** *What is the connection between behavior in real life and in cyberspace?* (You should have the same standards for behavior in both places.)
- **Ask:** *What is an example of using the "Golden Rule" in cyberspace?*

Extension:

- Have students conduct a mock trial in which the "prosecutor" describes an offense in cyberspace (for example, a student goes online and pretends to be someone else), witnesses are called, a defendant is questioned, and a judge directs the jury to reach a verdict.

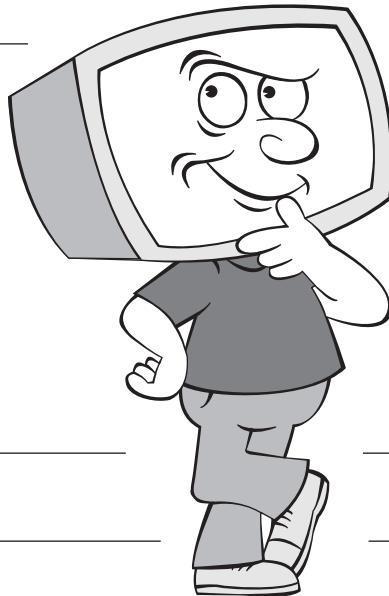
Name _____ Date _____

Do the Right Thing

If it's not right to **bully** someone you meet at the playground...what about bullying someone you meet in cyberspace?

If it's not right to **break into** a home and **mess up** the papers on the owner's desk...what about breaking into a computer and messing up the files?

If it's not right to write bad language on the sidewalk in front of your home... what about using **bad language** on your personal Web page?



If it's not right to **watch someone** unlock their locker and then open it yourself...what about watching someone use their password and then use it yourself?

If it's not right to **tear** pages out of a library book...what about deleting a few pages from someone's computer file?

If it's not right to **enter** someone's home "just to look around" . . . what about entering someone else's computer "just to look around?"

Name _____ Date _____

When It's NOT Okay

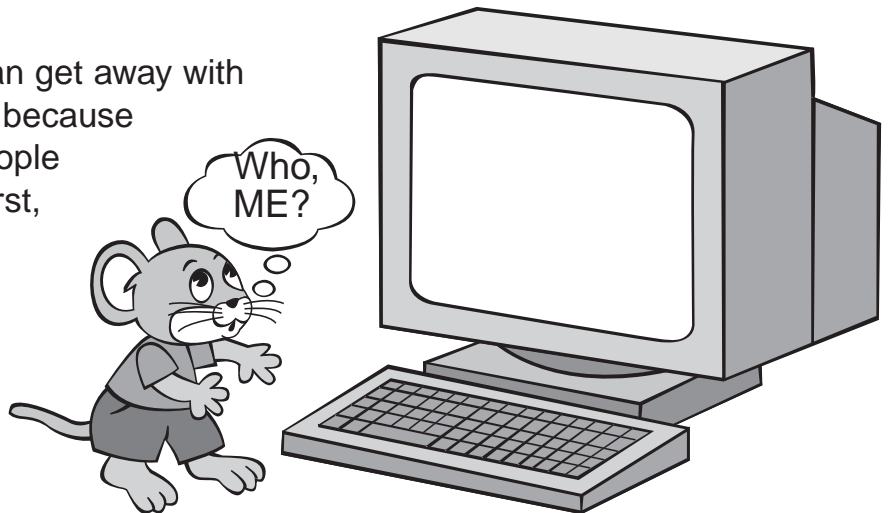
You know how to do the right thing when you're face to face with others. Take along your "street smarts" of right and wrong when you go into cyberspace. For example, you know it's wrong to bully on the street. It's also wrong to bully in cyberspace. If it's not okay in real space, it's not okay in cyberspace.

Treat **PROPERTY** Properly

You know to respect the **property** of others at school. You wouldn't go into a classmate's backpack and read his journal without his permission. Backpacks, notebooks, and the drawings and writings inside are someone's property. People own things in cyberspace, too. The files in their computers are their property. Web sites belong to their owners. So, respect property in cyberspace, too.

Who, ME?

Sometimes people think they can get away with doing bad things in cyberspace because no one knows who they are. People may not know who you are at first, but they can get help to find a troublemaker. So, do the right thing, even if you think no one is looking.



Do Unto Others. . .

When you're not sure how to act in cyberspace, remember the "Golden Rule." Before you act, think about how you'd feel if you were the other person. That will help you decide what is the right thing to do.