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INFORMATION

Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

June 8, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: High School Principals

From: Erick J. Lang, Associate Superintendent

Subject: INFORMATION: Digital Citizenship Partnership with Common Sense Education

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information about the partnership between Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and Common Sense Education to deliver digital citizenship curriculum to high school students in Grade 9. Students and adults utilize technology to socialize, for work, to conduct business, and for learning. Because technology is an integral part of daily life, the need to learn how to positively interact using online platforms became apparent. During spring of 2014, a task force comprised of nearly 50 members, including MCPS school-based and central services-based staff, parents/guardians, students, and community stakeholders, convened to develop strategies to encourage healthy online decisions. The task force met regularly for more than a year and made recommendations and produced resources to address the growing need for students and adults to positively interact using online platforms. One of its recommendations was the further exploration of digital citizenship resources that could provide supports to students, families, and staff. Further meetings with elementary, middle, and high school principal stakeholder groups echoed the need for such resources. Common Sense Education is a resource that takes a holistic approach to digital citizenship and matches this identified need.

Summary

- MCPS and Common Sense Education are committed to working together to provide schools and educators within the district the necessary tools, training, and support to: (1) empower students to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly with technology as part of the district's Digital Citizenship Program, and (2) effectively integrate technology into the classroom to improve student outcomes.
- As part of the district's Digital Citizenship Program, Common Sense Education will provide high-quality digital citizenship materials to schools to use with both students and
families. A whole-community approach to digital citizenship is an implementation model that involves student instruction, family engagement, and educator professional learning and support.

- Implementation of the digital citizenship curriculum will be a shared responsibility of media specialists, school counselors, and teachers in digital literacy, English, and social studies. Media specialists will serve as the key contact at each high school and will receive professional learning during the school year to support the coordination of implementing the digital citizenship curriculum.

- Digital citizenship content will be embedded within existing curriculum giving each student in Grade 9 a minimum of five lessons (3.75 hours) of instruction over the course of the school year.

- High school media specialists will receive an overview of Common Sense Education's digital citizenship curriculum for Grade 9 during the School Library Media Programs back-to-school professional learning day on August 22, 2017, at Gaithersburg High School (more information to come in a June 15, 2017, memorandum to principals).

- Additional communication regarding implementation of the digital citizenship curriculum along with a schedule of planned events for the 2017–2018 school year is forthcoming in September 2017.

Questions

- Questions should be referred to Ms. Latrice D. Rogers, assistant to the associate superintendent for curriculum and instructional programs, Office of the Chief Academic Officer, at 301-279-3411 or via e-mail.

Copy to:

Executive Staff
Ms. Christman
Dr. Collins
Ms. Craft
Dr. Crews
Ms. Dawson
Mr. Fliakas
High School Administrative Secretaries
High School Directors of School Support and Improvement

Approved:

Maria V. Navarro, Chief Academic Officer