

ROBERT LOUISE STEVENSON'S

SCHOOL2HOME NEWSLETTER

Digital Citizenship

Theme of the Month

Technology changes everyday! There is so much out there to explore in the world of technology that it can be overwhelming, especially for teachers to figure out how to effectively incorporate it throughout their curriculum. So to bring order to this chaos, each month of the school year will be given a **theme** with which to focus, but is not limited to, technology instruction and integration across all content areas.

This month's emphasis is on **Digital Citizenship!** Digital citizenship can be defined as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior with regard to technology use, and more specifically use on the Internet. The focus this month is on helping students to better understand their role in society and the rules and etiquette that bind it. The lessons provided to departments will introduce Digital Citizenship, cyberbullying, privacy and safety on the Internet, and rules and expectations with regard to appropriate uses of their School2Home laptop.

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Tech Tip

We all have personally or know someone who has had a computer crash and was unable to recover any files! As a loss-preventative action, many of us have smartened up and purchased an external hard drive to save backups of all of our files, but even then these drives can fail. When [shopping](#) for an **external hard drive**, it is important to know the following: **ONLY buy flash or static state drives!** The disc drives which most of us have break with the slightest of knocks.

1:1 Strategies

1. Make sure class expectations and procedures are established before incorporating laptops. This should take no more than the first week or two of the school year.

2. Ask 3 before me! This is a lifesaver for teachers. Remember, your class content has not changed and the focus of instruction is not laptops. At the same time, there will be students in each of your classes who can offer effective support to their peers, so let them!

3. Just because you can doesn't mean you should! Another lifesaver for teachers AND students. The world will be available to students, literally at the end of their fingertips, and so it is vital that they learn to

exercise self-discipline and control. So, planning for and implementing engaging activities should virtually eliminate any issues with students being off task, as long as students know the consequences for their choices.

4. Two healthy assumptions: (1) You are the pedagogical, content, and skills expert, and as such you know what students must learn so press forward with this as you plan for and implement instruction and student learning activities. (2) Students will be more of the technology expert and so establish a shared learning culture in your class and 'align' these two assumptions in establishing a very effective learning environment and culture. - [Karen Ward](#)

Curricular Resources

English

Math

History

Science

PE

Electives



You can also access this newsletter online under Teacher Resources at <http://www.rlstevenson.com/school2home>. Resources listed will be more accessible here.

Parent Engagement

During School2Home Parent Workshops, participants are given the opportunity to explore Stevenson's website to view teacher's homepages and homework postings. To help keep parents informed and students accountable, this month's parent engagement focus is on maintaining homepages on rlstevenson.net and posting homework online. In order to update your homepage, login to admin.rlstevenson.net, create a "class" for each period, and post homework as it is assigned. Don't forget to show your students how to access your homework online. From now and on, missing school is no excuse for not completing homework! See [Adding Homework](#) for more help.

Also, when assigning homework that requires students to have a discussion with their parents, make the assignment due after the following weekend. Students don't always see their parents on weekdays.

Just For Fun

In the spirit of the holiday season, this month track Santa's every move at www.noradsanta.org. Here you can watch [videos](#) of his latest sightings, play [games](#), and track Santa on [Google Earth](#).

For more than 50 years, NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) and its predecessor, the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) have tracked Santa's Christmas Eve flight. The tradition began in 1955 after a Colorado Springs-based Sears Roebuck & Co. advertisement for children to call Santa misprinted the telephone number. Instead of reaching Santa, the phone number put kids through to the CONAD Commander-in-Chief's operations "hotline." The Director of Operations at the time had his staff check the radar for indications of Santa making his way south from the North Pole. Children who called were given updates on his location. and a tradition was born. [Read more...](#)