

Today's Digital Learner

Today's digital world is considerably different than the world we grew up in. Our classrooms and learning environments at school are also looking different as students have more access to technology to enhance their learning. Students in the 21st Century have access to more technology than any other generation. However, for our students today, technology is more than a tool; it is an essential component of everyday life that frames their social world view. For many of our students, being digitally connected is as natural as speaking is to adults. All around us, our students see examples of how our society is connected digitally.

At Terrace Ridge School, we believe that our students need to understand that online choices have offline consequences. As teachers and parents, we need to develop a deeper understanding of the digitally connected world and what it means to be good digital citizens. To meet that goal the staff of Terrace Ridge have been participating in a variety of professional development activities that have focused on increasing our awareness and understanding of digital citizenship. We started the school year with a presentation and understanding more about our digital world and started to look at a variety of support tools we can use with our students.

We want our students to use digital tools in a way that will help them collaborate more, create new knowledge, develop inquiry skills and create questions that guides their learning. We know that our students are tech savy and technology literate but we also recognize that they are still young and lack an adult perspective on safety, responsibility and general citizenship

Learning about digital citizenship and how to integrate this topic into our existing programs at Terrace Ridge has been a topic of some additional planning time. Each Professional Learning Team has spent a half day developing some plans about how we can effectively create understanding and awareness with our students before we start using a number of online tools for instruction. We recognize that digital citizenship is more than just a teaching tool as we begin taking steps to prepare our students to be active and safe participants in a society full of technology.

For more information about how you can assist in helping your child understand the importance of digital citizenship please visit our website at:

www.terraceridge.wolfcreek.ab.ca/DigitalLearner