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BOCES

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Personal Responsibility and Information Literacy

By Eva Efron

The concept that "Information Literacy has become much more complex as resources and technologies have changed" is a common belief. The American Association of School Librarians Standards for the 21st Century Learner includes the expectation for students to share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society. (www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/guidelinesandstandards/learningstandards/AASL_Learning_Standards_2007.pdf) It is the responsibility of the user to demonstrate ethical behavior.

There is a need to teach and model this safe and appropriate behavior; it is not intuitive. One example of appropriate behavior is a respect for each other's views and materials. Technology has made it easy to share information between users. Each student needs to understand the significance of creating his own work, not copying. One can be much more creative and collaborative, instead of using the cut, not read, and paste method. (Check with the school librarian for the access information.)

A responsible user seeks diverse perspectives and thinks critically about the accuracy, validity and appropriateness of the information before reaching a conclusion or new understanding.

Resources have increased in number, depth, and accessibility.

Technology makes it easy to gather the information from a variety of sources any time of day or night. Online (vendor) databases such as NOVELny are authoritative sources of information (available to each New Yorker for no charge). Check with the school librarian for access to information. A responsible user seeks diverse perspectives and thinks critically about the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the information before reaching a conclusion or new understanding.

One should know and understand the rules of ethical Internet behavior. The user should respect the intellectual property of other creators (giving them credit for their ideas), thus avoiding plagiarism. This includes music, not just written works.

Users need to learn respect for social networking: what to include, what should stay personal or private, and remembering to respect themselves and all others.

In this world of the Internet, which encourages easy communication of information and collaboration, one needs to be responsible for his/her behavior. Collaborating with the school librarian on projects is one way to model and teach appropriate behavior.



See all the latest Professional Development offerings

Nassau BOCES' CIT has to offer:

<http://nassauboces.org/cit/catalog/current/index.htm>

Upcoming Events

Breakfast Briefings

Using Portable Interactive Products

When: April 28

E-mail Archiving Desktop Virtualization & Wireless Network Access with VANDIS

When: May 1



Engaging Web Apps for Education

When: May 4

All Breakfast Briefings are held at the
One Merrick Avenue Conference Center
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Lunch & Learn

Smart Tools

When: April 30

Teaching Matters

When: May 14

All Lunch and Learn Workshops are held at the
One Merrick Avenue Conference Center
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

For more information on the upcoming events,
visit www.nassauboces.org/cit/mcs

Great Books for Ethics and Personal Responsibility

*Making Good Choices: Developing Responsibility,
Respect, and Self-Discipline in Grades 4-9*
by Richard L. Curwin

*50 Life Skills to Ensure Kids Stay In School,
Off Drugs and Out of Trouble*
by David Becker

*A Penny Saved: Teaching Your Children the
Values and Life Skills They Will Need to Live
in the Real World*
by Neale S. Godfrey



Articles on Ethics and Personal Responsibility

Cheating Goes Digital

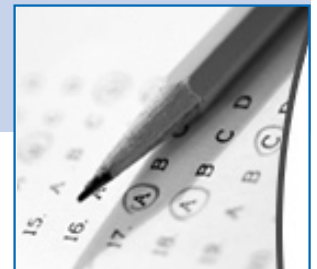
New tools and new sites make classroom
dishonesty easier to quash.

www.edutopia.org/technology-student-cheating-prevention

School to Work: Ethics in the Workplace

As young people enter the workforce, they encounter
a variety of ethical problems that require tough
decisions. Here are some thorny scenarios for your
students to wrestle with.

www.goodcharacter.com/NFS/SchoolToWork.html



Josephson Institute's 2008 Report Card on the Ethics of American Youth

This report card is based on a survey of nearly
30,000 students in high schools across the U.S.
The results paint a troubling picture of our future
politicians and parents, cops and corporate
executives, and journalists and generals.

<http://charactercounts.org/programs/reportcard/>

For information on any of CIT's programs,
including back issues of CIT Response, up-to-date education news, NCLB, special reports,
new services and more, visit the Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Website at:

www.nassauboces.org/cit

Life Skills: Ethics and Responsibility

Tiger's Action Plan

Designed for teachers, classrooms, youth groups, clubs, and community centers nationwide, this character development program has helped change over 5 million lives through its focus on character education, volunteer service, and career exploration.

www.tigerwoodsfoundation.org/actionplan/index.php

Character Education

This site includes teaching guides for elementary, middle, and high school: The Six Pillars of Character, Life Skills, discussion techniques, and opportunities for action.

www.goodcharacter.com/

Teaching Kids to Make Moral Decisions

A professional development article with tips for teachers, and a link to an interview with the author of Building Moral Intelligence: The Seven Essential Virtues that Teach Kids to Do the Right Thing, by Michele Borba.

www.education-world.com/a_curr/profdev055.shtml

Profiles in Courage: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

This is a 2-part lesson from the National Endowment for the Humanities, with resources that include links, interactive tasks, and handouts.

http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=525#LESSON1

Character Counts Lesson Plan Bank

Search for lessons by age, subject, or by one of the Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship).

<http://charactercounts.org/lesson-plans/index.html>

An Ethical Worksheet

This document guides you through the process of making a decision, with guiding questions, commentaries, and a sample case.

<http://jcomm.uoregon.edu/~tbivins/J397/Links/Worksheet.html>

Teacher-made Activities for Teaching Responsibility

This Scholastic Instructor article has tips for teaching personal, interpersonal, at home, community, global, and online responsibilities.

<http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=11536>

Studying Character—A Lesson from Scholastic

Students learn the meaning of certain core traits that help to define "good character," as well as an understanding about Confucius and the wisdom of proverbs. Includes "printables."

www2.scholastic.com/browse/lessonplan.jsp?id=1097

Tech Toys

Ekho Heart Monitors by Ekho Brand Americas

The Ekho heart monitors are designed for K–12 and physical education programs. The company recommends the E-10 for grades 3–5, and the E-15 or WM-25 for grades 9–12.

www.ekho.us/

Electronic Grading Pen by Edugrader

Intended to make grading easier, this sleek and compact pen has a built-in calculator and LCD screen. Teachers begin by pushing buttons to enter the maximum number of points for the assignment at hand.

www.edugrader.com/



TRON-X Transport Case for iPods

Constructed of impact-resistant ABS plastic with a solid aluminum frame and locking latches, the top-loading Tron-X case safely transports and securely stores up to 20 iPod players. www.paratsolutions.com/apple.html

May Spotlight

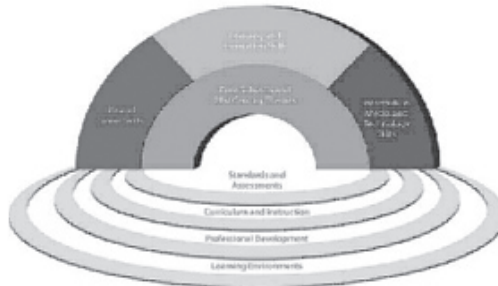
Come join us for the 3rd Annual
MicroComputer Support Leadership Institute

A Road Map to Implementing the Framework for 21st Century Learning

Date: May 8

Time: 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Place: Cablevision
Headquarters
111 Stewart Avenue
Bethpage, New York



Hosted by Cablevision

Breakfast and lunch
provided courtesy of
Cablevision

**You're probably further along
than you know!**

Featured Presentations

Overview of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills

Rose Else-Mitchell,
Scholastic Education, P21 Board Member

A Portfolio Approach to 21st Century Skills

Terry Clark,
Assistant Superintendent, Bethpage UFSD

Graduating 21st Century Skills-Ready High School Students: Setting and Lifting the Bar

Gene Silverman,
Executive Director, Nassau BOCES Career & Technical Education

Student-Centered Learning Environments

Clifford Steinberg,
Nassau BOCES Department of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology

The Corporate Perspective: Panel Discussion

Cablevision, Gale-Cengage Learning, Cisco, Dell, Intel Teach,
Scholastic Education

There is no cost for this symposium, but you must register as space is limited. Visit the MCS Web site (www.mcs-nastech.org) and use the link to MCS Tech Seminars & Online Registration. Please contact Matthew Hejna at (516) 608-6648 or mhejna@mail.nasboces.org for event information.