Infusing Jewish Values into a Digital Citizenship Curriculum

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Description: This session will detail how Jewish values have been integrated into the digital citizenship curriculum at a K-8 school, particularly in grades 3-5. At Rashi, our core values of Kehillah, Limud, Ruach, Tzedek, and Kavod guide our behavior. As the network is an extension of the school, our school-wide Derech Eretz policy applies to the use of our school computers and other electronic devices. Digital citizenship lessons are often framed in a Jewish context as we teach how to use the internet safely and respectfully. Lessons include discussions of Shmirat HaLashon in terms of electronic communication; awareness of our digital footprint and responsibilities when in the larger world-wide kehillah; and kavod for creators’ rights.

Julie Koven Levine is the librarian at The Rashi School in Dedham, MA, a K-8 Jewish day school affiliated with the Reform Movement. In addition to library literacy skills, she teaches technology, digital citizenship, and media literacy lessons across all grades. She has previously been the Reference/Cataloging Librarian at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, NY; the librarian at Gann Academy in Waltham, MA; and Systems Librarian at Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, FL.