Infusing Jewish Values into a Digital Citizenship Curriculum

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Overview

This session details 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. 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 understanding our responsibilities as part of the larger world-wide digital kehillah; and kavod for creators’ rights during the research process.
Values on the Walls
Technology “Brit” ברית

- Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) - differentiated across different divisions
  - 3rd-5th / 6th-8th
- Vocabulary words for 3rd grade - “brit” and “derech eretz”

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### Technology ברית
Grades 3-5

At Rashi, our core values of Kehillah, Limud, Ruach, Tzedek, and Kevod guide our behavior. As the network is an extension of the school, our school-wide Derech Eretz policy applies to the use of our network, school computers, iPads, and other electronic devices.

I understand that The Rashi School gives me the use of computers, email, and storage space on the server for my schoolwork. My behavior and language should follow the same rules I follow in my class and at Rashi. To help myself and others, I agree that I have the following responsibilities:

I am responsible for Taking Care of Myself
- I will only use the school network and internet resources for schoolwork.
- I will keep my password and login information private.
- I will keep my personal information private.
- I will tell a teacher or another adult if I see something inappropriate or that makes me uncomfortable online.
- I will ask a teacher before watching videos online.
- I will ask a teacher before using a game site.
- I will ask a teacher before downloading anything to the shared school computers.

I am responsible for Taking Care of Others
- I will always use kind and respectful words online.
- I will not use the computer to bully or threaten anyone.
- I will not ask for anyone else’s password.
- I will give proper credit for words, images, and media I share or use in my work.
- I will not take credit for anyone else’s work and will cite my sources.

I am responsible for Taking Care of School Property
- I will use clean hands when handling school computers and equipment.
- I will type / use the keyboard gently.
- I will use two hands to carry all devices.
- I will plug computers back in when I’m finished using them.
- I will not block or interfere with school or school system communications.
- I will keep food and drink away from computers and equipment.
- I will keep devices that go in my backpack in a protective case and be mindful that my backpack has a valuable piece of technology in it.

I understand that if I am not able to take care of myself, others, and school property that I may lose the privilege of using my accounts and school devices.

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Student Name  

Date

Parent Signature  

Date
Derech Eretz, Jewish Ethical Behavior

Our rabbis teach us that Derech Eretz preceded Torah (Lev. Rabbah 9:3). Derech Eretz is how we conduct ourselves as individuals and in our communities. 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 schoolwide Derech Eretz policy applies to the use of our school computers and networks.
Derech Eretz / Treating Others How You Want to Be Treated / V’ahavta L’reyachcha Kamocha

Hillel/Shammai “Torah on One Foot” story - “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor.”

- Shalom Sesame video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIPslTJkSfw
- On One Foot, Linda Glaser
  - Differentiated age appropriate digital citizenship discussions:
    - Inappropriate “Chatting” on Google Meet
    - Sharing emails without permission
    - Taking pictures and passing them on without permission
    - Negative online comments
    - Cyberbullying
Email Lesson

- Usually introduce email in fall of Grade 3
- Goals:
  - 1) understanding what you write is permanent
  - 2) etiquette / kavod (proper subject; proper grammar; address and closing)

- Fall Holidays connection: Big Sam: A Rosh Hashanah Tall Tale
  - (tall tales > exaggerating > be careful with your words both on and offline)

- Secular book: Webster’s Email, by Hannah Whaley
  - K-2 activity: create “Sammy Spider’s First Email” with the lessons Sammy learns
Digital Footprint

- Introduce in Grade 3
- Mizzle / Electra lesson - based on a Common Sense Media lesson
  - Personal and/or private information that these animals posted online is printed out on cards scattered around the library
  - Students examine the cards and answer questions to determine who had the safer digital footprint

Follow the Digital Trail:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bRZdUtmH8k
What is your Digital Footprint?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4P_gj3oRn8s
Power of Words

The Hardest Word, Jacqueline Jules

- Power of Words video from Common Sense Media: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rOnMl26dR8
- Common Sense Media lesson plan: https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/lesson/the-power-of-words
- Teshuva / Saying Sorry Discussion Questions
  - Is it easier online? Is it less authentic?
- Secular books to connect to dictionary/thesaurus lesson:
  - Noah Webster’s Fighting Words
  - The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus
“CyberPigs” - 4th Grade Lessons

● Privacy Playground: The First Adventure of the Three CyberPigs
  ○ [https://mediasmarts.ca/game/privacy-playground-first-adventure-three-cyberpigs](https://mediasmarts.ca/game/privacy-playground-first-adventure-three-cyberpigs)
  ○ Privacy; internet safety
  ○ The CyberPigs play on their favorite website and encounter marketing ploys, spam, and a close encounter with a not-too-friendly wolf

● CyberSense and Nonsense: The Second Adventure of The Three CyberPigs
  ○ Web evaluation; trusting sources
  ○ CyberPigs learn important lessons about verifying online information and observing rules of netiquette; distinguishing between fact and opinion; and how to recognize bias and harmful stereotyping in online content

● Purim book: *Not for All the Hamantaschen in Town*, Laura Aron Milhander
  ○ [https://pjlibrary.org/books/not-for-all-the-hamantaschen-in-town/if00652](https://pjlibrary.org/books/not-for-all-the-hamantaschen-in-town/if00652)
CyberPigs Activity Resources

4th Grade “Cyber Snaps”

● Shorter lessons (not entire class periods)
● Understanding Online Friends
  http://planetnutshell.com/portfolio/understanding-online-friends-grades-4-6/
● Posting Pictures Online
  http://planetnutshell.com/portfolio/posting-pictures-online-grades-4-6/
● CyberBullies Are No Fun
  http://planetnutshell.com/portfolio/cyber-bullies-are-no-fun-grades-4-6/
Kehilah - Rings of Responsibility Activity

- 5th Grade Lesson
- What are our responsibilities (both online and offline)
  - To ourselves?
  - To our friends and family?
  - To the greater kehilah?

Rings of Responsibility Statement Examples

- “I am respectful and kind when communicating online.”
- “I never reveal my family’s home address.”
- “I communicate only with people I know offline.”
- “I don’t tag my friends in photos or videos without their permission.”
- “I don’t copy someone else’s words and say that I wrote them.”
- “I never call people mean names online.”
- “I balance my time online and offline.”
- “I post my opinions respectfully.”
Gossip & the Power of Words - Shmirat HaLashon (Guarding the Tongue)

- Read *A Sack Full of Feathers*, Debby Waldman
  - Jewish folk tale about the dangers of gossip
  - Hurtful words cannot be taken back once they’re out there
  - Even more important online
Power of Words / Lashon Harah

- BimBam Metzorah - 5th/6th Grade
Can you name all the different emotions shown in the reference image? List as many as you can think of.

Ready? Enter your answer here.
Current Events Case Studies

Former Postmates driver sues Lizzo after singer accused her of stealing food order

Tiffany Wells, 27, said she was threatened by Lizzo’s fans over the September 2019 tweet.

"Plaintiff went back outside where she lingered for five minutes before finally departing," according to the lawsuit. Wells spent more than 10 minutes trying to contact the customer, the complaint says.

The following day, Wells received multiple text messages from family and friends telling her that Lizzo had posted her photo on Twitter with the message: "Hey @Postmates this girl Tiffany W. stole my food she lucky I don't fight no more."

Feelin Good As Hell
@lizzo

I apologize for putting that girl on blast. I understand I have a large following and that there were so many variables that could've put her in danger. Imma really be more responsible with my use of social media and check my petty and my pride at the door. 😞
Kavod כבוד - Citation

- Question for Students: Why do you need to cite your sources?
  
  *The heart of it all - Showing Kavod כבוד for others' work*

- Copyright & Trademarking basics (Nancy and the Meerkats: Nancy's Musical Box) - https://www.funkidslive.com/learn/nancy-and-the-meerkats/#
  
  o Campaign from the U.K. Intellectual Property Office to teach children about copyright infringement
  
  o Uses cartoons and puns on pop stars' names (“Ed Sheerling” and “Kitty Perry”)
Why do we do it?

It's important to give credit where credit is due.

1. If you're borrowing the words or ideas of others, you need to give them credit.
   a. Shows ḥakumat to the author

2. Your Bibliography / Works Cited page allows anyone who reads your work to see where you did your research.
   a. Your teacher can go and see if your sources are reliable.
   b. Others doing research on a similar topic can use your bibliography as a road map for their own research.
Different Perspectives (*Vikuach*); Criticizing Constructively

- Website Evaluation / How News is Shared
  - Critical thinking skills
- *Duck! Rabbit!* (Amy Krouse Rosenthal)
  - Different perspectives
- Hillel and Shammai: Disagreements for the Sake of Heaven (*Machloket L’shem Shemayim*)
  - [https://www.bimbam.com/machloket-lshem-shemayim/](https://www.bimbam.com/machloket-lshem-shemayim/)
Benefit of the Doubt / Judging Others Fairly (Machrio l’Chaf Zechut)

- People often make snap judgments online based on headlines, etc.
- Importance of getting all the facts.

“Euthanized Giraffe Case Study”
Lots of judgmental comments from people who clearly didn’t read the article.
Evelyn Phillips said:
Sorry but he didn't die of natural causes. Why the heck did they euthanize him 😞 this zoo is a piece of crap for doing that. If they couldn't handle helping this little guy then they should have asked another zoo to step in and do the right thing not kill him.

Kathryn Cosby said:
Please read this article, as well as the others written about this sad situation........ They DID consult with other zoos!!!!!! Even to the point of getting donor plasma from other healthy giraffes at other zoos to try and heal him!!!! They also consulted with a PEDIATRIC

Angeline said:
God you're an idiot... That is all.

Chad said:
Rules of engagement: 1. Read the entire post. 2. If you are still unclear google info. 3. Comment if you must but keep in mind you are no expert.

Keith Lyne said:
You got to read more than the attention grabbing headlines!
Tools / Resources

- Digital Compass: [https://www.digitalcompass.org](https://www.digitalcompass.org)
- FBI Safe Online Searching: [https://sos.fbi.gov/](https://sos.fbi.gov/)
- CyberPigs: [https://mediasmarts.ca/game/privacy-playground-first-adventure-three-cyberpigs](https://mediasmarts.ca/game/privacy-playground-first-adventure-three-cyberpigs)
- Privacy Pirates (similar to CyberPigs): [https://mediasmarts.ca/game/privacy-pirates-interactive-unit-online-privacy-ages-7-9](https://mediasmarts.ca/game/privacy-pirates-interactive-unit-online-privacy-ages-7-9)

Activity from FBI Safe Online Searching
Tools / Resources

- Kahoot (for digital Footprint/internet vocab)
- Planet Nutshell: https://planetnutshell.com/netsafe/
- BrainPop Junior / BrainPop
- Nearpod in 5th grade
  - Interactive engagement platform
  - Some original; some adapted from Common Sense Media lessons
    - https://nearpod.com/digital-citizenship
- Shared Google Docs/Slides
  - How do we work on a shared document respectfully / with kavod?
  - What’s hard?
    - Taking turns; agreeing on font, color, etc.

Responses to 5th grade Nearpod prompt about Jewish values online

- You should always be nice on the internet no matter who or what it is. If you have a video of someone and they don’t approve of it, you shouldn’t post it. Be sensitive to what hurts others.

- Be respectful on the internet and in real life. On the internet you should comment and post kind words and things that you would say in person to somebody else. Be open to having people join your chats and games. If you don’t have something nice to post, don’t post.

- You need to always be thoughtful about what you say because it can always be traced back to you. You need to keep your mind in check and think about kavod online and in real life.
Digital Citizenship Picture Books

Reynolds, Aaron. *Nerdy Birdy Tweets.*

Bedford, David. *Once Upon a Time Online.*

Willis, Jeanne. *Chicken Clicking.*


Fox, Kathleen. *The Pirates of Plagiarism.*