



Middle School Learning in a Digital World

Course Details

Course Code: 17010000 (6th Graders); 27010000 (7th and 8th Graders)

Subject: Exploratory

Recommended Grade Levels: 6-8

Duration: Semester

Class Times: This course has scheduled instructional meetings. Information on scheduled meetings for each course is communicated by the teacher. Recordings of these meetings will be available for students unable to attend. Students should expect to spend 7-9 hours a week working on this course independently, in addition to any live meetings, and are expected to meet the deadlines posted in the course pacing guide.

Required Course Materials: Digital camera – either camera phone, iPad, computer camera – as long as the image can be recorded and uploaded to a computer; paper and colored pencils

Outside Websites: A list of links to websites and online textbooks used in this course can be found here: [VSC Course Links Document Folder \(opens in a new window\)](#). Students will need to be able to access all of these links to access all course materials.

Course Description

The digital world seems to change every day, and touch more of our lives. We use technology to communicate with friends and family, find never-ending entertainment options, follow our favorite sports teams and fashion trends, and do our school work. In *Learning in a Digital World*, you will get the tools to navigate this exciting and always changing world. Learn about real-world issues and how to solve real-world problems through interactive and hands-on assignments. Discover what it means to be a responsible digital citizen, expand your digital literacy, and become a successful online student. Consider the best ways to find, create, and share information, learn to maximize information and communication technologies, and explore digital content creation, from emails and blogs to social media, videos, and podcasts.

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Scope and Sequence

Unit 1: Digital Citizenship

- Describe what it means to be a digital citizen
- Discover areas where you leave a digital footprint
- Discuss the importance of independence in online learning
- Explain how to approach an online course

Unit 2: Online Safety

- Explain how to use the internet safely
- Describe ways to spot a possible online threat
- Evaluate your online identity
- Identify ways to improve your online presence

Unit 3: Communication and Collaboration

- Discuss different tools that enable online communication and collaboration
- Explain how to set up a successful video call
- Discuss how to effectively communicate with teachers and peers online
- Describe proper online etiquette

Unit 4: Digital Literacy

- Define digital literacy
- Describe the different steps of the research process
- Navigate through each step of the research process
- Discover how to find credible information online

Unit 5: Study Skills

- Find and create a designated study space that will help you to create better study habits
- Discuss how to get organized and manage your time wisely
- Discover how to take better notes, as well as online tools which will help improve your notetaking
- Describe different ways to prepare for tests and quizzes

Unit 6: Content and Copyright

- Describe what the copyright law entails
- Explain how you can apply fair use to the information you want to use
- Describe the different types of Creative Commons licenses that are available
- Define remixing and explore copyright issues related to remixing content

Unit 7: Your Learning Process

- Define study agency and take control in where, when, what, and how you learn
- Describe ways to connect with what you are learning
- Discover different learning styles that can guide you to how you learn best

- Identify your own learning style

Unit 8: Digital Well-Being

- Describe how to improve on everyday life tasks to keep you in tip-top study shape
- Explain the importance of proper study breaks
- Discover ways to stay motivated throughout an online course
- Describe how the skills in this course can apply throughout your life

Students will be sent a full list of assignments and their due dates at the beginning of the course.

Course Grades

The final grade in this course results from the following:
Coursework: 100%

VirtualSC Details

Information on VirtualSC student guidelines, policies and technology requirements can be found in the [VirtualSC Student Support Portal \(opens in a new window\)](#).