



**River Forest**  
Public Schools

# Digital Civics: Exploratory Course

Roosevelt Middle School  
August 2025

# Digital Civics Overview

- 10 week exploratory class
- 37 minutes daily (duration of course)
- Yearly for all students in grades 5th-8th grade
- Course Goals:
  - Develop social and emotional skills focusing on assertiveness, responsibility, self control and empathy in face to face interactions
  - Apply social, emotional, and communication skills to the digital world focusing on becoming ethical, safe, and productive digital citizens



# Curricular Resources

- *Fly Five* (from Responsive Classroom)
  - Cooperation, Assertiveness, Responsibility, Empathy, Self Control
  - Interactive learning structures
  - Dedicated time for discussion, formative assessment, and reflection
- *Cyber Civics*
  - Digital literacy skill lessons designed to teach students how to be ethical, safe, and productive digital citizens
  - Interactive lessons promote conversation, critical thinking, and collaboration
  - Aligned with CCSS ELA-LITERACY Standards, ISTE Tech Standards for Students, CASEL Competencies.
  - Developed in conjunction with CyberWise, Updated annually, National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) award winner



## 5th Grade Digital Civics Learning Goals

### Fly Five

I have my own opinion while listening to the opinions of others, disagree with others respectfully, and seek help when disagreements escalate.

I avoid spreading gossip and negativity online.

I recognize that outside factors impact how I feel.

I recognize and express my anger appropriately. I explore ways to calm myself down effectively.

### Cyber Civics

I recognize the principles of good citizenship.

I can apply principles of citizenship within the digital world.

I understand the impact of my digital reputation.

### Final Project

Public Service Announcement (Presentation)

How can we use technology in ways that are safe, respectful, and responsible to make a positive impact online?

### Vocab

Digital billboard, Altruism, Ethical, Consequences

## 6th Grade Digital Civics Learning Goals

### Fly Five

I understand the importance of boundaries. I know that my well-being is important and will look for help when needed. I have an opinion and am open to other's ideas.

I can manage emotions so they do not impact myself or others.

I am able to adjust in a situation to be successful. I can identify what is right and wrong and respond accordingly. I am able to use negative feelings and turn them into a positive purpose

### Cyber Civics

I can recognize cyber bullying behavior.

I am respectful and safe in my communication and actions online.

I know actions I can take if I feel unsafe in an online community.

### Final Project

How can my current online actions impact my future?  
(Presentation: Student Choice of Format)

### Vocab

Boundaries, Upstander, Growth mindset

## 7th Grade Digital Civics Learning Goals

### **Fly Five**

I can agree to disagree while also being respectful.

I can listen to opposing viewpoints with an open mind.

I can help others when they experience challenging emotions.

I can speak up for myself and others and seek help when needed.

### **Cyber Civics**

I know what healthy online habits look like and can balance my time on and offline.

I understand the value of my personal information and why I should protect it.

I know ways to keep my personal information safe online.

### **Final Project**

How can my current digital use impact my future goals?  
(Student reflection and goal setting of online habits)

### **Vocab**

Coexist, Self-advocate, Upload/post, Share, Viral, Compassion

	8th Grade Digital Civics Learning Goals
<b>Fly Five</b>	<p>I respectfully disagree, share my opinions diplomatically, and seek guidance for my future.</p> <p>I spot harmful online content, respond calmly, and engage constructively on social justice issues.</p> <p>I know my emotional triggers and use coping strategies.</p> <p>I adapt to change and manage obsessive thoughts before they cause problems.</p>
<b>Cyber Civics</b>	<p>I recognize media plays a role in creating and perpetuating stereotypes.</p> <p>I know how to form healthy relationships and protect my wellbeing in an increasingly complex digital world.</p>
<b>Final Project</b>	<p>How has your relationship with media changed as a result of this class? (Presentation: Student Choice of Format)</p>
<b>Vocab</b>	<p>Diplomatic, Vulnerability, Activism, Social Justice, Emotional Trigger</p>

# Next Steps

- Regular teacher collaboration and reflection
- Student survey at the end of each quarter
- Share final project examples with the BOE

Questions?

*Thank you!*



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