ARCS NEWS

Advancing Rural Computer Science

Brought to you by The Center for Educational Partnerships at Old Dominion University

Announcements

Greetings, and welcome to our November newsletter!

We hope you and your students enjoyed a fun Halloween!

Congratulations to those who completed the **ARCS K-5 Computer Science Microcredentials** this past month! The ARCS team literally cheered as we sent out certificates of completion, digital badges, and stipends! If you need any help accessing or completing the five self-paced courses, please reach out to us at TCEP@odu.edu.

This month, we provide food for thought and some instructional resources on the topic of internet safety, which includes how we protect our data through strong and secure passwords, as well as how to use computing devices in a responsible and safe manner. Although today's students seem comfortable with electronic devices and internet use, it is our responsibility as educators to model and teach critical do's and don'ts that will enable them to protect themselves. To get your students thinking about these and other CS issues, consider participating in Code VA's *CS In Your Neighborhood* competition—see below for details.

Code VA is also accepting nominations for CS Educator of the Year 2021 through November 17th. Consider nominating one of your rock star colleagues!

Sincerely,

The ARCS Team

Concept Corner

Computers often have us fooled into thinking we are secure; nobody on the other side of the screen can immediately cause physical harm. Be careful! The best way to approach your security is to think of it like shopping at a mall; though not a threatening environment, you still take measures to protect yourself. You lock your car, conceal your credit card information, and avoid entering unsafe areas. Here are some things you can do to be safe on the internet.

You must have a strong password. Your password is a "pass" to any and all personal information. Make your password long, strong, yet easy for you to remember. Use a password generator and manager to keep track of difficult passwords. Avoid names, hobbies, dictionary words, and simple patterns. Don't use the same password for each account.
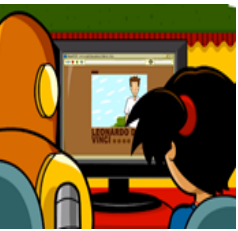
When browsing online, avoid misspelled web addresses, as they may be used to trick users into entering a shady website (for example, "faecbook.com" looks close to "facebook.com"). Check that reputable websites have the security lock symbol and start with "https", which is the secure communication protocol. Finally, make sure to always update your browser whenever available.

When checking emails, assist the email provider in filtering future spam emails by moving miscategorized spam into the "junk" folder. Since the spam filter isn't perfect, regularly check your spam folder for missing important emails. Have it set to require your permission before external images from emails load - if they automatically load, spammers know that you're active. Also, "phishing" emails are faked to come from reputable organizations and request that you give them personal information. Do not give personal information without being 100% sure - these emails will fake to threaten you with immediate consequences. Don't fall for it!

Finally, regularly run antivirus and antimalware software on your computer (Norton, McAfee, and Bitdefender are good tools). Keep your programs and operating system updated. Back up important files. Avoid and identify suspicious links. Make sure that online purchases are done using secure payment methods. Adjust your social media privacy settings to prevent spillage of information to unwelcome people. Let's make the internet a safe place for everyone!

Source: https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/internetsafety/introduction-to-internet-safety/1/

Pedagogy Pointers

Free BrainPOP Lesson: BrainPOP Jr.'s internet safety video, interactives, and lesson materials are one of the resources the site makes available regardless of your school's subscription status. A version of the internet safety lesson for older students is also available. Aligns with CS K.8, K.11, 1.9, 1.10, 1.13, 2.10, 3.10, 4.10, and 5.9.

Brainpop Jr Internet Safety

Brainpop Internet Safety (for older students)

Lesson and Video: Common Sense Education has a video and lesson plan designed to help teachers teach online safety principles and how to navigate online spaces in a secure way. Accessing the full materials requires registration, but there are no costs associated with joining. Aligns with CS K.8, K.11, 1.9, 1.10, 1.13, 2.10, 3.10, 4.10, and 5.9.

Access Safety in my Online Neighborhood

Computer Science in the Commonwealth

CS in Your Neighborhood

CodeVA's state-wide CS In Your Neighborhood competition invites students from Kindergarten through 12th grade to submit creative "Data Selfies" representing their data footprint. Submissions can be individual, small group or by class, and take any form of shareable media including: visual art, music, video, or code/web content. Two winners from each of the eight Virginia Superintendent Regions will be part of a total of sixteen winners from across the state.

Submissions should address the following **prompt**:

> *In a digital world, data is not only something that we collect and use to understand meaning but also something that we "leave behind" or give away. We create data each morning when we determine what to wear, which route to take to school/work, and what we need to do each day. Our digital footprint can allow others to learn more about us. This data is a reflection of the choices we make when we use technology.*

For full details on submission criteria and submission, please visit: **Computer Science Education Week 2021 | CodeVA (codevirginia.org)**

Engaging All Learners

The concept of digital citizenship involves responsible use of computing devices, an idea that goes hand-in-hand with internet safety. It is important for adults to model conscientious online behavior to protect ourselves as well as others with whom we interact digitally. Elementary teacher Kathleen Morris maintains a blog that offers suggestions and resources to help educators and parents promote responsible digital behavior whether in the classroom or at home. **Click here** to read more about suggestions for teaching and integrating these concepts at the elementary level. This article also includes downloadable posters to promote digital citizenship among young students.

Old Dominion University

The Center for Educational Partnerships

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