⊘ **common sense** education™

Digital Classroom Starter Kit

Setting up your digital classroom is a natural extension of setting up your physical classroom. This year, we encourage you to try out new digital tools to empower students and manage your workload — and, of course, prepare your students to use technology safely, responsibly, and respectfully.

Our Digital Classroom Starter Kit will provide you with tips and tools on everything from engaging students to bridging the home-school connection, all while empowering students to be good digital citizens.

1. Getting Students Engaged

2. Crafting a Creative Classroom

3. Assessing Students' Understanding

4. Extending Learning 24/7

5. Bridging the Home-School Connection

Before you dive into all the resources, take a few moments to ground yourself in the basics of managing classroom tech by watching this **short video**.

1. Getting Students Engaged

Hooking kids up front is always a goal when introducing new content. And video is a tried-and-true method that appeals to many learning styles. But when students passively watch a video, it can be challenging for them to comprehend and critique the material. **EDpuzzle** can help solve this problem. This website offers teachers a series of tools to make videos more interactive, from inserting pauses for reflection to adding questions that get students thinking critically about what they watch. Best of all, students can make their own EDpuzzles to demonstrate learning.

EDpuzzle

COMMON SENSE RATING

★★★★☆

GRADES	PLATFORM	PRICE
3–12	**Website**	**Free**

Digital Citizenship Connection

Each of the videos in our free, research-based **K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum** has accompanying questions that can be found in an accompanying Video Discussion Guide. Use **EDpuzzle** to insert these questions (or some of your own!) at key points throughout each video. Then watch the videos as a group or individually, encouraging students to reflect on the challenges and opportunities of their digital lives.

K–5: Pause & Think Online
- View the **Video Discussion Guide**.
- **Download the video** from Common Sense's site or **YouTube**.

6–12: Oversharing: Think Before You Post
- View the **Video Discussion Guide**.
- **Download the video** from Common Sense's site or **YouTube**.

Want more?

- Looking for some advice on how to take classroom video to the next level? Watch this three-minute **video** for ideas on helping students be active and reactive viewers.
- Check out this **Top Picks list** for other great interactive video apps and websites.
- Read this **blog post** for more tips and tools to fuel student engagement.

2. Crafting a Creative Classroom

Introducing students to new creative skills and tools early in the year can give them ways to express themselves and present their knowledge all year long. **Glogster** allows students to create rich, multimedia posters individually or as a group project. To promote authentic learning, consider how you can have students articulate, summarize, or teach others what they've learned. "Glogs" encourage students to organize their thoughts in an informative and interactive way.

Glogster

COMMON SENSE RATING
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

GRADES	PLATFORM	PRICE
2–12	**Website**	**Free**

Digital Citizenship Connection

A great way to introduce some creativity into a digital citizenship lesson is to have students summarize their learning in a poster, blog, video, or other kind of presentation. First, teach a digital citizenship lesson from our K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum. (You can use one of the lessons below or check out our **Scope & Sequence** for more options.) Next, give students a set of criteria to include in their presentations — you may want to think about including key vocabulary, a summarization of main concepts, and takeaway tips. They can work individually or in small collaborative groups to combine text, graphics, images, video, and even audio to create an interactive poster on **Glogster** to share with their peers.

K–2: Going Places Safely	**6–8: Digital Life 101**
3–5: Rings of Responsibility	**9–12: Digital Life 102**

Want more?

- Not into posters? Check out this list of other great **classroom tools for presentations and slide shows**.

- Maybe comics are more your style. Watch this **webinar** for ideas on how to use comics as an entry point into digital citizenship.

- And if you don't want to have to start from scratch, take a look at this **Lesson Plan** from one of our Common Sense EdTech Mentors on how to guide students in using their knowledge of digital citizenship to develop a skit, comic strip, or play about the importance of being an upstander.

3. Assessing Students' Understanding

You're probably already using exit tickets or some other form of formative assessment to regularly check student understanding and modify your instruction. But do you ever get the feeling after a quiz that you're the only one reflecting on the learning? This year make sure your formative assessments get students to self-assess and reflect rather than just get their grades and go. Use **Formative** to make this happen. With this website, you can administer quick checks for understanding and see student work in real time. You also can ask open-ended questions! Best of all, you can get students to continue the feedback loop with on-the-spot feedback to propel them in new directions.

Formative

COMMON SENSE RATING

★★★★☆

GRADES	PLATFORM	PRICE
3–12	**Website**	**Free**

Digital Citizenship Connection

Transform how you assess your students' understanding of digital citizenship. Teach one of our digital citizenship lessons and then customize your assessment with **Formative**. First, take the wrap-up questions in the lesson and add them to Formative with open-ended text responses so that students can reflect on their own learning and voice their own opinions. Next, mix in some of the multiple-choice questions from the lesson quiz. Consider whether you want to add any other questions of your own, and voilà! Here are some lesson suggestions:

K–2: A-B-C Searching	**6–8: Strategic Searching**
3–5: Personal and Private Information	**9–12: Oops! I Broadcast It on the Internet**

Want more?

- Watch this short video for **3 Tips for Great Formative Assessment**.
- Learn about how to use **WordPress, Weebly, and Tumblr** for reflective blogging.
- Looking for ideas beyond Formative? Check out other **Top Tech Tools for Formative Assessment**.

4. Extending Learning 24/7

Determining a go-to spot where everyone can access assignments, reminders, and notifications is key to a successful classroom. **ChalkUp** is a great option to do just that. It's a relatively lightweight learning management system (LMS) that encourages ongoing collaboration among students, teachers, and parents anywhere and anytime. It's cleverly designed and mimics social media platforms, making it easy to use and intuitive. From school to home, **ChalkUp** also allows dialogue to happen — and learning to be extended — wherever students (or teachers) happen to be.

ChalkUp

COMMON SENSE RATING

★★★★☆

GRADES	PLATFORM	PRICE
6–12	**Website**	**Free, Paid**

Digital Citizenship Connection

Each of the lessons in our K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum has supplemental resources for extended learning. Instead of these resources getting crumpled in the bottoms of backpacks or lost, make them available 24/7 by uploading them to **ChalkUp**.

K–5: Use the **Student Activity Sheets** after teaching the corresponding lesson.

6–8: Share the **My Media Log** activity with students so they can keep track of their digital lives at home.

9–12: Students can check their own and family members' digital savviness with our **Got Media Smarts?** quiz.

Want more?

• Share our digital citizenship **posters** to remind students to be safe, responsible, and respectful 24/7.

• Flip the classroom by having students play our interactives at home, and then engage in the wraparound activities in the classroom:
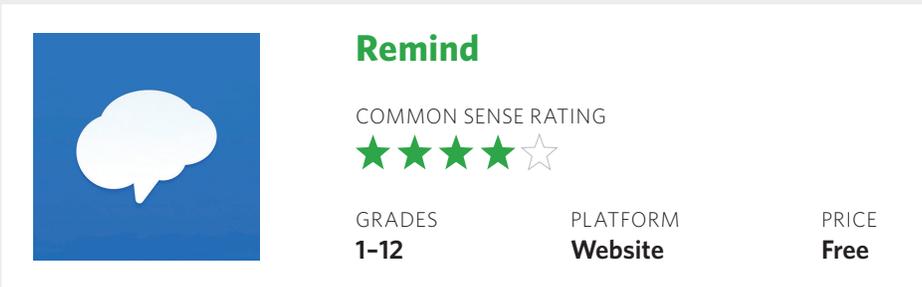
K–5: Digital Passport   **6–8: Digital Compass**   **9–12: Digital Bytes**

5. Bridging the Home-School Connection

Digital tools make it easier to keep communication open and ongoing outside of a classroom's four walls. Send text-like messages to any device (but with no phone numbers or fees) to student and parents with **Remind**. Use it to send announcements, encouragement, and messages to individuals or groups. You can even attach photos, voice clips, videos, and other files. And messages can be translated into more than 70 languages!

Remind

COMMON SENSE RATING
★★★★☆

GRADES	PLATFORM	PRICE
1–12	**Website**	**Free**

Digital Citizenship Connection

One way to communicate the importance of digital citizenship is to engage families by sharing resources and tips throughout the school year. Check out our **Digital Citizenship Starter Kit** that we created with **Remind** to reinforce good digital citizenship behaviors. Use the suggested activities and tips as a model for how you can encourage not only one-way messaging but two-way chat.

Want more?

- Looking for other tools to connect with parents? Check out **this list** of six tech tools that boost teacher-parent communication.

- Not sure parents in your community know how to decode their teens' shorthand in the digital world? Share our **Digital Glossary** with all the latest lingo.

- If you have families struggling to afford internet access in their homes, share these options for **low-cost broadband**.

- Our **Connecting Families Program** has a wealth of resources for families of K–12 students.

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For additional tips, tools, and advice, join us at
www.commonsense.org/educators.