



## MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT Safe Technology and Digital Citizenship FAQ

This FAQ report was created to help parents understand MCSD efforts to foster an atmosphere of safe, positive, and productive digital citizenship amongst our students and educators.

### **What internet filters are being used and how do they work?**

Murray City School District uses the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) contracted Content Keeper content filtering system. This filtering system is the most commonly chosen among the Wasatch Front Districts from the options provided by UETN. We also use a Palo Alto firewall and Net-Ref management system with a filtering function to further block content when it does not get blocked in the Content Keeper. Content is categorized as allowed or blocked according to default settings deemed appropriate for K-12 education. Chromebooks that use district email accounts will not be able to access the internet until the device is connected to the Content Keeper Cloud system. The Content Keeper system also monitors for specific unauthorized applications running on devices and takes the devices off of the network until the applications are closed.

Despite using industry-proven preventative measures, Internet filtering is an evolving technology. The ability to bypass filters or trick them is also evolving. The district technology department updates the content lists daily and the firmware as quickly as possible to keep the platform stable. There remains a slight chance that Murray City School District computer users may inadvertently access inappropriate sites or material. In such cases, students are encouraged to notify a school employee immediately. Employees experiencing such incidents should make a report to school-level administration. The district technology department will then follow up on these reports to take appropriate action and make needed adjustments in preventative measures.

### **Are there different settings used for different grades and school levels?**

Although most blocked sites are blocked on all student and guest networks, we have different sets of filtering rules for elementary, junior high, and high school students. Some sites are allowed at the high school level and not at the junior high or elementary level. Similarly, there are some sites allowed at the junior high level that are not allowed at the elementary level. This gives students access to the information they need for their courses.

### **How are frequently used sites such as YouTube and Google filtered?**

YouTube is available to students in grades 7-12 in restricted mode. Students can only watch videos on YouTube that have been approved by Murray City School District teachers or administrative staff or deemed appropriate for those under 18 by YouTube. Students may only access YouTube inside the schools by logging in using their district-provided Gmail accounts. YouTube is blocked for students in grades K-6. Google searches are checked for specific keywords, and sites are blocked according to the content rules outlined in the filtering software. When harmful keywords are searched, district technology personnel are sent an alert.

## **What management systems are used on devices that provide additional control?**

Desktop and Laptop Devices: LanSchool and/or Net-Ref are used in our computer labs. These allow the teacher to monitor users' screens from their computers and pause computer or internet usage to keep the class focused.

Chromebook Devices: The Google management system is used and is configured only to allow extensions to the Chrome browser that the district technology department approves. This management system allows the district to manage what apps and services are available for teachers and students. The Net-Ref system monitors student usage; teachers can set allow lists or block lists while students are in their classes. Net-Ref is also used to disable all Chromebooks for students in grades K-6 each night at 9:00 PM.

iPads: The Apple Device Management System Mosyle Manager manages all iPads in the district. This allows us to control which apps are loaded onto the devices and to purchase apps legally for school use.

## **What resources does the District provide to educate students on safe internet use and digital citizenship?**

In Elementary, all students will receive an online device orientation no later than October 15. They will receive at least one lesson in each of the following topics over the course of the school year: self-image and identity, cyberbullying, relationships and communication, privacy and security, and information literacy. MCSD will also follow the Common Sense Education Digital Citizenship Curriculum and its scope and sequence. Students will receive at least one lesson in each of the following six topics over the course of the school year: Media Balance and Well-Being, Digital Footprint and Identity, Privacy and Security, Relationships & Communication, Cyberbullying, Digital Drama & Hate Speech, News & Media Literacy.

In our secondary schools, specialty classes that use computers include digital citizenship as part of their curriculum. These classes include College and Career Awareness and Business/CTE classes. Each student in grades 9-12 is required to complete .5 credits of computer technology for high school graduation. Courses that fulfill this requirement include standards specifically addressing digital citizenship topics.

## **What resources does the District provide to educate parents/guardians on safe internet use and digital citizenship?**

The PowerUp page on our Teaching and Learning website (under the Programs tab) has a link for digital citizenship lessons. We are using resources from Common Sense Education.

Parents are provided a short video during registration, which introduces online safety and care of the Chromebooks provided for their students.

## **What resources does the District provide to educate teachers on safe internet use and digital citizenship?**

All certified teachers are required to complete the online Murray School District Citizenship and Digital Learning course through Canvas or UEN face-to-face training. This course trains teachers on digital citizenship and how to keep their tech-savvy students safe while using different technology components in and out of the classroom. Additionally, a series of twenty-one (21) Murray School District technology certification courses are available for teachers online through Canvas. These courses can be completed as teachers want to strengthen their knowledge of digital learning in the classroom. Two (2) technology instructional coaches are available for teachers regarding digital citizenship and digital learning needs.

## **What is the protocol when inappropriate content is accessed?**

Teachers are asked to monitor students whenever they are online, either electronically or by walking around the classroom. When inappropriate content is accessed by a student or staff member (seemingly by accident or on purpose), the student or students should be removed from the situation, and the school administration should be notified. The devices should be isolated, and the district technology department should be contacted. Besides fixing any issue discovered, the district technology department will work with the school administration to gather information and take appropriate measures if the Acceptable Use Policy is violated.

## **E-Rate Funding**

Federal E-Rate funding is used to pay for the Internet connections between our schools, the district office, and the Utah Education Network. E-Rate funding is also used to update network equipment in our schools.