[TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND A STUDENT TEACHER IN A CLASSROOM]

[MUSIC]

TEXT ON SCREEN: 21st Century Teaching and Learning… Innovation in Ontario

TEXT ON SCREEN: Digital citizenship and responsibility Greater Essex County District School Board

DIGITAL LEARNING TEAM TEACHER: What makes the internet great?

NARRATOR: These Grade 5 students are being introduced to the concept of digital citizenship.

STUDENT: What are some online safety rules?

STUDENT: Parental control apps.

STUDENT: Bad websites.

NARRATOR: The lessons are facilitated by a team of 14 occasional teachers who were chosen by the Greater Essex County District School Board to form a Digital Learning Team.

These DLT sessions are part of an innovative initiative by the Board. While their teachers are released for a professional learning day focused on using technology, students are in the classroom learning about digital responsibility.

JOHN HOWITT: It's really building community within the schools and the occasional teachers have just been exceptional with the lessons that they've created.

NARRATOR: The DLT travels to a new school each day. They'll be teaching every student from JK to Grade 12 about digital citizenship through interactive lessons.

DIGITAL LEARNING TEAM TEACHER: I'm going to read out a scenario, and around your room I have four different pieces of paper. I have right, wrong, on the file cabinet it says as long as I don't get caught and on the back it says I don't know if it is right or wrong. So I'm going to read you something and you can quietly go to the answer that you think is correct. I gave my email password to my best friend. Yes.

STUDENT: Sometimes they can write bad messages about some people and then they can blame you.
DIGITAL LEARNING TEAM TEACHER: It's something that's so important for a 21st Century classroom. Before you can introduce electronics in the classroom, you need to have that component of digital responsibility so that students can use that when they are learning on tablets or iPads.

NARRATOR: The team differentiates their material for various grade levels and adapt their lessons as technology continues to evolve.

DIGITAL LEARNING TEAM TEACHER: So everyday we are adding things to our lessons. Different apps that we could show our students, different video clips to help teach them about citizenship and responsibility.

NARRATOR: Leaders say there is often co-learning in the classroom.

DIGITAL LEARNING TEAM TEACHER: They even teach us. They tell us new programs so it's great.

STUDENT TEACHER: They are all about their growth mindset so they want to take initiative for their own learning. And they're very advanced on technology like they teach me things that I didn’t even know!

NARRATOR: These Grade 3 students are also learning about the importance of tracking their digital footprint.

DIGITAL LEARNING TEAM TEACHER: When you’re posting something, someone's seen it, somebody’s shared it, somebody can screenshot it. If you delete it it’s not really gone. So the idea that what they do on the internet is there forever is probably the most important thing I want to address with students when I’m in a classroom because it's the most important piece of the puzzle, I think.

NARRATOR: Teacher consultant Chris Knight says understanding online safety rules contributes to student well-being.

CHRIS KNIGHT: We realize that cyberbullying, for example, is not an issue with technology, it’s a character development issue. So we really want to focus with our students on appropriate behaviours and online choices.

STUDENT: On the internet they think they could be mean for no reason because they’re just wearing a mask and people don’t know who they are. But actually, it doesn't make a difference.

NARRATOR: Lessons are structured so that students are able to make real world connections.

DIGITAL LEARNING TEAM TEACHER: I try to have them connect the rules. This is your classroom rule, this is your internet rule. And how are they the same?

STUDENT: Your passwords and where you live and your phone number and all of that because that’s bad for people to know what you are and what your name is.
NARRATOR: At the end of the session, these primary grade students are asked to take the concepts they've learned and create a skit, a poster or a song to demonstrate deep learning.

STUDENTS: The rules, the rules, the rules of the internet.

NARRATOR: These sessions are just the beginning of learning about digital citizenship and educators say it’s a skill set that’s vital for student success.

STUDENT TEACHER: Teaching them about personal safety on the internet as well as making them do different skits or songs, things like that, they can teach each other what they’ve learned. If you want to go for a job interview you need to know how to use the computer, you need to know how to type. You need to know what information you’re seeing on the internet, if it’s accurate or if it’s not. So things like that are really going to help these children in the future

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TEXT ON SCREEN: “Cyberbullying… is not an issue with technology, it’s a character development issue.” - Chris Knight, Teacher Consultant