10/15/2020

Dear Gateway College Prep Community:

The Governor has deemed the month of October to be Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The Texas Department of Information Resources is spearheading the movement by using #TXCyberAware20 (Click HERE for more information). As a school that touts giving students access to technology and requiring students to bring a device to campus with our BYOD policy, we want to do our part to promote digital citizenship and security.

First, and most importantly, all of our students should have security software installed on the devices they bring to school. This would include phones or tablets that they bring to school. Anything that they can connect to our wireless network. It is suggested by our IT Department that Malwarebytes is the most effective security software. There is a free version of Malwarebytes to download for all devices, however, it is highly recommended that families use a purchased software that is more comprehensive. As a reminder, having a security software installed on your computer is not only good practice it is required by our BYOD recommendations (Click HERE for BYOD Recommendations).

We urge parents to engage in security measures at home like creating an admin account on your home devices so your children can't install applications without your permission. We have a very strong filter here at school, and our IT Department monitors student devices that contain viruses. Please know that infecting the school's network with a virus is something that can be a violation of the student code of conduct and might have disciplinary consequences.

Our students in 4th grade have an introductory technology special where they start learning about how to use technology for educational purposes. They continue to receive a more robust covering of technology during their technology elective in 5th grade. These classes are great, and cover a great deal of cybersecurity issues. However, we want to make sure that 100% of our students who are using technology are aware of proper cybersecurity measures. Due to this we are offering our students an opportunity to receive a certification in cybersecurity measures.

Students can use EduHero to receive training on cybersecurity. Students in grades 5-8 can participate in a cybersecurity training that is designed for their age group. Students in grades 9-12 can participate in 2 courses. One will be on cybersecurity and the other on internet safety. These courses take about 30 minutes each and are self-paced.

Please Click HERE for a presentation on how to create an account in EduHero and register for the courses.

We appreciate everyone's support in creating a safe environment for learning. Cybersecurity is all of our responsibilities. The more we can educate ourselves and teach our children about safe use of technology the better. Please click HERE to view more information on cybersecurity from Stop Think Connect as advertised on the Department of Information Resources.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Boorman
Head of School

#GJGATOR