Digital Citizenship Lesson Plan

Spam

General Topic (as defined in the Digital Literacy Framework)	DB6
Digital Citizenship b) Privacy and Security	
Applicable Grade Range	
3-5	
Outcome(s) to be Addressed	
The student knows what spam is, the forms it takes, and can identify strategies for dealing with it.	
Importance / Significance of Lesson	
When using online tools and resources, students will be exposed to spam in a variety of ways. It is important that they realize the forms spam can take, the purpose for spam in any way and the dangers that can lurk in online prize giveaways and fake emails.	
Duration	
20-30 minutes	
Overview	
Students will develop an understanding of what spam is and the forms it can take and learn how to avoid falling victim to spam attempts.	
Required Resources	
Computer hooked up to a projector	
Lesson Plan and Extension Activities	
Using a computer hooked up to a projector, have the class watch http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apCdjFIacfU . This video explains what spam is and how to protect against it. Ask students to summarize what they learned in the video to their partner and have a review discussion highlighting the important parts: Spam – unsolicited messages that try to promote a product or website. Note that it can take the form of emails, text or IM messages, notifications, and pop-ups on home or school accounts.	

Why do people Spam? – to sell products or services

How can I stop spam?

- don't share your email with strangers or in programs
- have a second email address to use when signing up for new programs online
- use filters to remove spam from your inbox
- use spam protection provided by your internet provider
- use a spam protection service

Additional tips to avoid spam:

- Ignore spam emails and messages. Delete them and block the sender if possible.
- Protect your privacy and do not use your personal email to sign up for programs or rebates. Stores now ask for your email address for their system, and they will send you spam mail if you provide it to them.
- Unsubscribe – you can try to unsubscribe from services that you don't wish to receive emails from, though the process can take a long time and repeated attempts.
- Don't follow links within emails from companies that you do deal with. These can often be 'phishing' attempts to get your account information through trickery or by inciting panic that an account has been compromised. If you are concerned, go to the website and use your account details to sign in to your account.

Adaptations

Younger students might not have access to sites or email addresses that would allow them to fall victim to spam attempts, however they can be aware of the practices and know not to click on any pop-ups or ads that take them to another site.

Older students will have more experience with incidences of spam and will be able to develop and share tips for avoiding spam. Research into spam software programs could be an extension activity.

Additional Resources
Spam protection software http://spam-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/
Tips to reduce or protect yourself from spam:
http://blog.gcflearnfree.org/2013/03/19/5-tips-for-protecting-yourself-from-email-spam-and-scams/
http://spam-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/spam-safety-tips.html
Cross-curricular Outcomes Also Addressed
Language Arts – read/view for information
Health and Career Prep – personal safety strategies

~developed by Kristin Sward, 2014