

ARCS NEWS

Advancing Rural Computer Science

Brought to you by The Center for Educational Partnerships at Old Dominion University

VOL. 4, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2023

Announcements



Greetings, and welcome to our November newsletter!

We hope you and your students enjoyed a fun Halloween!

Congratulations to those who completed the **ARCS K-5 Computer Science Microcredentials** this past month! The ARCS team was so excited as we sent out certificates of completion, digital badges, and stipends! If you need any help accessing or completing the five self-paced courses, please reach out to us at TCEP@odu.edu.

We want to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and provide a little food for thought as we dig into some instructional resources on the topic of internet safety. We will discuss how we protect our data through strong and secure passwords, as well as how to use computing devices in a responsible and safe manner. Although today's students seem comfortable with electronic devices and internet use, it is our responsibility as educators to model and teach the critical do's and don'ts that will enable them to protect themselves.

To get your students thinking about these and other CS issues, consider celebrating Computer Science Education Week on December 4-10, 2023. Read more about this in the Computer Science in the Commonwealth section.

As always, if you have any questions or comments for us, please don't hesitate to email us at tcep@odu.edu.

Sincerely,

The ARCS Team

Concept Corner



Computers often have us fooled into thinking we are secure; nobody on the other side of the screen can immediately cause physical harm. Be careful! The best way to approach your security is to think of it like shopping at a mall; though not a threatening environment, you still take measures to protect yourself. You lock your car, conceal your credit card information, and avoid entering unsafe areas. Here are some things you can do to be safe on the internet.

You must have a strong password. Your password is a "pass" to any and all personal information. Make your password long, strong, yet easy for you to remember. Use a password generator and manager to keep track of difficult passwords. Avoid names, hobbies, dictionary words, and simple patterns. Don't use the same password for each account.

When browsing online, avoid misspelled web addresses, as they may be used to trick users into entering a shady website (for example, "faecbook.com" looks close to "facebook.com"). Check that reputable websites have the security lock symbol and start with "https", which is the secure communication protocol. Finally, make sure to always update your browser whenever available.

When checking emails, assist the email provider in filtering future spam emails by moving miscategorized spam into the "junk" folder. Since the spam filter isn't perfect, regularly check your spam folder for missing important emails. Have it set to require your permission before external images from emails load - if they automatically load, spammers know that you're active. Also, "phishing" emails are faked to come from reputable organizations and request that you give them personal information. Do not give personal information without being 100% sure - these emails will fake to threaten you with immediate consequences. Don't fall for it!

Finally, regularly run antivirus and antimalware software on your computer (Norton, McAfee, and Bitdefender are good tools). Keep your programs and operating system updated. Back up important files. Identify and avoid suspicious links. Make sure that online purchases are done using secure payment methods. Adjust your social media privacy settings to prevent spillage of information to unwelcome people. Let's make the internet a safe place for everyone!

Source: <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/internetsafety/introduction-to-internet-safety/1/>

Pedagogy Pointers



Free BrainPOP Lesson: BrainPOP Jr.'s internet safety video, interactives, and lesson materials are one of the resources the site makes available regardless of your school's subscription status. A version of the internet safety lesson for older students is also available. Aligns with CS K.8, K.11, 1.9, 1.10, 1.13, 2.10, 3.10, 4.10, and 5.9.

[Brainpop Jr Internet Safety](#)

[Brainpop Internet Safety \(for older students\)](#)



Lesson and Video: Common Sense Education has a video and lesson plan designed to help teachers teach online safety principles and how to navigate online spaces in a secure way. Accessing the full materials requires registration, but there are no costs associated with joining. Aligns with CS K.8, K.11, 1.9, 1.10, 1.13, 2.10, 3.10, 4.10, and 5.9.

[Access Safety in my Online Neighborhood](#)

Computer Science in the Commonwealth



Computer Science Week: December 4—December 10, 2023

Computer Science Week is an annual event celebrated worldwide. It is held each year during the week of Grace Hopper's birthday, an American computer scientist, mathematician, a US Navy rear admiral, and a pioneer of computer programming. It is an opportunity to spotlight the ever-evolving role and impact of computer science. During CS Ed Week there is the flagship activity "[Hour of Code](#)" that is designed and shared from [Code.Org](#), which can be a great way to introduce students and families to computational thinking and algorithm design. This is also a time to host Family Code Nights, showcase student work, and recognize CS instruction in the classroom. CS Ed Week is also the time in which the [Virginia Computer Science Educator of the Year](#) nomination window opens. This award recognizes and honors educators across the Commonwealth for their excellence in K-12 CS instruction and impact.

For more information, please visit: [CSEdWeek.org](https://www.csedweek.org)

Engaging All Learners



The concept of digital citizenship involves responsible use of computing devices, an idea that goes hand-in-hand with internet safety. It is important for adults to model conscientious online behavior to protect ourselves as well as others with whom we interact digitally. Elementary teacher Kathleen Morris maintains a blog that offers suggestions and resources to help educators and parents promote responsible digital behavior whether in the classroom or at home. [Click here](#) to read more about suggestions for teaching and integrating these concepts at the elementary level. This article also includes downloadable posters to promote digital citizenship among young students.

United States Education Department Grant U411C190032. The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

Old Dominion University

The Center for Educational Partnerships

Have a question or feedback for us? Email TCEP@odu.edu

Website: <https://www.odu.edu/tcep/arcs>

Tel: 757-683-5449