



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SMMUSD Recognized as a Common Sense District

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has been recognized as a Common Sense District by the national nonprofit organization, Common Sense, dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of media and technology.

SMMUSD has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate, while preparing them for the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. With the right support, kids can take ownership of their digital lives, engage with real issues, and change their communities for the better. The recognition acknowledges our district commitment to creating a culture of digital citizenship. SMMUSD is one of nearly 150 districts in the country to earn this honor, with 256 Common Sense Educators teaching digital citizenship across the district.



"We are honored to be recognized as a Common Sense District," said SMMUSD Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati. "By preparing our students to use technology safely and responsibly, we are providing them an opportunity to build lifelong habits to help them succeed in a tech-driven world. This is really elevated now that we have engaged in distance learning."

SMMUSD has been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with researchers from Project Zero, led by Howard Gardner at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and are grounded in the real issues students and teachers face. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, media balance, managing online relationships, and media literacy. The free K–12 curriculum is used in classrooms across all 50 states, in more than 65,000 schools by more than 750,000 educators.

"We applaud the faculty and staff of Santa Monica-Malibu USD for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Liz Kline, vice president of education programs at Common Sense Education. "SMMUSD deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

For more information about SMMUSD, go to www.smmusd.org. To learn more about the criteria SMMUSD met to become recognized as a Common Sense District, visit <https://www.common sense.org/education/recognition>.

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About Common Sense Education

Common Sense Education supports K–12 schools with free, timely, and research-based resources for teaching in the digital age. We believe that learning digital life skills is essential for students to thrive in today's world and that all students should have access to learning these skills. That's why we make our digital citizenship resources available for free, ready for any educator to plug in to tomorrow's lesson plan. Our core resources include a comprehensive K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum, all-inclusive reviews of the most popular and latest edtech tools, and expert advice on how to use those tools most effectively in the classroom. Over half a million educators in nearly half of K–12 U.S. schools use our resources to teach kids digital life skills. We're excited to keep that number growing so all of our kids can thrive in the digital age.

Common Sense is the leading independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. Every day, Common Sense supports parents, teachers, and policymakers with unbiased information, innovative tools, and trusted advice to support kids' digital well-being. To see all of Common Sense Education's resources, visit <https://www.common sense.org/education>.

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