

Digital Makeover Part 1
Adrienne Keiner
3-15-15

I was a bit hesitant in looking up my digital self. Not so much afraid of what I have put online, but what others may have put online that may have my name attached. I am at an age, a sweet spot, where my pre-teen, teenage, and twenties did not live in an online world. THANK YOU MOM! If I did I would be terrified to look at my digital self. I say this because I have younger sisters, ten years younger. I see the items my sisters put online, along with teenage cousins and even the 6th graders that I teach. I try and warn them of their changing opinions and views and how they many be embarrassed of what they place online in the years to come.

After looking my digital self up via google search I found what I expected, not much. I have several social media accounts and I was pretty diligent in securing all items on said accounts. I clearly watch way too much "Law and Order". My biggest fear was to have my identity stolen so I've always been wary of online anything. The items I did find were from family members that tagged me or connected my name to a picture. Which means I will need to speak with some family members about their own security issues, especially when they involve my children. I found several pictures of my two boys with cousins on instagram. I searched further into my cousins, nieces and nephews and found a lot of unsecure items. I was very concerned. I may be in the sweet spot but it's only because I was educated on the subject. My cousins, nieces and nephews have not been educated and many of their parents and/or grandparents do not fully understand online security. I may have to sit some folks down and have them look up their own digital self.

Digital Makeover Part 2
Adrienne Keiner
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All of the websites from the cohort are fantastic. However the websites I visit most often are Anna McGowan, Ashley Keine, and Beverly Keane. I visit these three ladies sites because they are very organized. Whenever I am looking for a specific item or new ideas to include in my own STEM practices I can always count on finding fun and interesting ideas on these three ladies sites. However, I have to say I'm pretty biased, I started this program with these three ladies and have always counted on their ideas and input to keep me going.

The other reason I check in on Anna, Ashley, and Beverly's websites is to get a better look at what other grades are completing. Ashley is in lower grades and has struggled with bringing technology to her school and having complete buy-in school wide. I have had my own struggles and like to check in on how others have dealt with similar situations. Beverly and Anna teach many different grade levels and I like to see their different styles and differentiation to meet all students at so many different levels. Yes, I only teach 6th grade and yes, I only teach mathematics; but when I know what's going on in other grades and subjects I can incorporate in all into my lessons and keep that same vocabulary, technology, and knowledge flowing well into middle school.

By visiting these three sites I have taken many examples and 'stolen' many ideas from their sites and added them into my own, such as having buttons to access papers and not just pasting them onto the page. I will probably check in on all STEM cohort sites but these three I will visit regularly.

Digital Makeover Part 3
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I didn't have to make many changes to my personal and professional social media accounts because I fear online predators and stolen identities. However, after searching out my digital self I found that I have to pass my security knowledge onto some family members that may not fully understand the ramifications of their postings. I am not just going to speak with family members but pass the same message onto students and their parents, possible have a "digital self awareness hour" to help pass on the security message. Throughout the school year I have stressed to student to create personal and professional accounts and we started with their CPS gmail accounts being their professional accounts and then creating a personal one if they need to communicate to family or friends not related to school subjects, so far so good!

As for 'cleaning up' and/or 'organizing' my professional website I have been modifying the site the entire school year for it to better fit my students accessibility needs. I have wanted students to use the site more than adults so students can see how to organize their own websites. In the past three months students have been creating their own websites to share their weekly work with each other and to keep a professional portfolio. Again, I am very cautious and did not connect their sites to the public without a password. Every website has a password that must be entered before being able to access it. I plan on letting students decide if they want their sites to go public at the end of the school year. But because I have stressed security so much this school year, students have been telling me they do not want their sites to become public, they want to keep their passwords and if someone wants to access it they can email the student for the password. I am very proud of their decisions and hope they bring that same thinking with them in their future endeavors.

Because students have shown such an interesting view towards online security I am definitely looking at my own site and the pictures and viewpoints that are posted to make sure all my students are safe.