Tracy Richter

Reflection 5.2

**5.2 Professional Ethics**

Candidates practice the ethical principles of their profession, advocate for intellectual freedom and privacy, and promote and model digital citizenship and responsibility. Candidates educate the school community on the ethical use of information and ideas.

**Artifacts**

1. [ISTC 789 Science Fair Research Lessons](file:///G:\Spring%202014\Internships\Glenwood%20Middle\Science%20Fair%20Collaboration.docx) and [Science Fair Portal Page](https://gmsmedia.wikispaces.hcpss.org/Science+Fair+Resources)

2. [ISTC 601 Virtual Learning Commons](http://hopeelementaryschoollibrary.weebly.com/)

**Relevance**

When my future students leave to continue their education or join the workforce, I want more than anything, is for them to be ethical and responsible citizens. In any future they have, they need to be respectful and moral to others and towards themselves. As a media specialist, I want to be able to help them practice and perfect this skill, in every aspect of their lives, but especially with technology. With technology being ubiquitous, students need to be respectful digital citizens in order to be respected themselves, and I want to help them achieve that goal.

I was able to demonstrate digital citizenship skills and ethical uses of information and ideas with 7th grade GT science students, during their science fair research project. The students used web 2.0 tools like Edmodo (an online collaborative community) and Noodletools (a note-taking and reference organizer) to help practice digital citizenship. Many of the students had used these tools before, so they were able to continue practicing digital citizenship skills like, conducting respectful online discussions and citing sources appropriately. The students loved using these tools, and used them effectively to help them succeed with their projects. On Edmodo, they were able to help each other with questions about their project and they loved how Noodletools helped them organize all of their sources, and allowed them to easily cite them. When I instructed them about the features of online databases, I made sure to note where to cite their sources, and the importance of why they should cite and protect copyright laws. Many students know that they should cite, but often they do not know why they should. Therefore, reminding them of its importance, can make it more meaningful and help them understand this vital practice. I also think it is important for them to be able evaluate websites for responsible and ethical information. Therefore, teaching them to use the CRAAP test and having them practice evaluating websites independently, is a critical component of learning about digital citizenship, not only during their school years, but for their futures’ as well. I loved teaching them this skill, because I could listen to their conversations and their thought processes as to why a website was not credible. The students had fun with this lesson, but they also learned a valuable lesson in the process: you can’t always trust the information on the web. In my future, I will continue to help my students practice this critical skill, so that they can identify unethical information, and become responsible digital citizens in their future.

In my ISTC 601 coursework, I teamed up with classmates to create a mock virtual learning commons for a school library. We included important aspects that any library should have on their virtual learning commons, like our vision and mission statement, informational pages for students, parents, and staff, knowledge building centers where teachers can communicate with each other about professional topics, and where students can collaborate with one another about their learning experiences. Most importantly we included information about web etiquette and web safety in our experimental learning center. We want students to be able to become digital citizens and communicate with each other professionally and respectfully, therefore including this information online is a great way to reinforce the behavior and make their parents aware of the skills their students are learning about. I would use this site as a reference when I create my own future virtual learning commons for my future library. I would add to it and create more ways for the school community to communicate with one another professionally (e.g. Wikis, blogs, etc.), provide information about copyright laws, and inform them about intellectual freedom and the rights they have in the library. I will teach my students about all of this in my in-school instruction, however it is important to communicate with their parents about this topic, and reinforce their learning through an accessible outlet. This would be a hub for students to refer to, and apply what they have learned in class to real-life situations, and practice skills that they will need in their futures’ as ethical and responsible digital citizens.