

# CELL PHONE SAFETY

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

INSIDE:  
curriculum materials  
for grades  
**6–8**

### HELP YOUR STUDENTS DEFEAT DIGITAL BULLIES

**Y**our students face a new threat: cyberbullies— young people who use cell phones and other digital devices to harass other students. The bullies' tools are text and photos that embarrass and unnerve kids. Keep your eyes and ears open and you may just see the evidence of it: Cyberbullying is a growing problem in American schools.

What can you do about it? Use this program from Weekly Reader Custom Publishing, The Wireless Foundation, and Connect Safely. *Cell Phone Safety* has been designed to help your students develop good judgment in digital communication—and to be good citizens online, on the phone, and in person.

### OBJECTIVES

- ★ To educate students about mobile cyberbullying and how to prevent it
- ★ To remind students about the benefits of being courteous while using cellular devices
- ★ To promote students' critical thinking about what is and isn't appropriate behavior on cell phones
- ★ To help students and parents/guardians come to an agreement about cell phone use
- ★ To encourage teachers and parents/guardians to help students observe courteous and safe cell phone behavior

### WHAT'S IN THIS PROGRAM?

- ★ This booklet, which includes:
  - A teacher's guide
  - 31 four-page student magazines
- ★ 30 family guides
- ★ A poster for your classroom
- ★ A reply card
- ★ A survey about the program

**Remind students: "Phones should only be used to communicate with people they know in the real world."**

—[www.connectsafely.org](http://www.connectsafely.org)



## HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

Start by asking your students the following questions:

- ★ What can you do with your cell phone (talk, text, take and send photos, etc.)?
- ★ Do you know how to do things that your parents don't know how to do (*i.e.*, send text messages or pictures)?
- ★ What is cyberbullying? Can it be done on cell phones?
- ★ What do you do if you are sent a text or photo by someone you don't know?
- ★ What do you do if you receive a text or photo from someone you know, but it is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable?
- ★ When should you put your phone on silent? Why?
- ★ How do you stay aware of your surroundings when you are speaking or texting on the phone?
- ★ What do you consider to be courteous behavior while using a cell phone?

After using these prompts and having discussions about what to do in different situations, try some role playing in class. Have students pretend they are receiving text or picture messages that make them uncomfortable, or have a student speak very loudly on the phone and give out his or her personal information. Watch how students respond, and then guide them in the correct direction if necessary.

## IDENTIFY INAPPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION

Part of the student magazine focuses on making sure students know what to do if someone sends them an inappropriate text message. Ask students:

- ★ What is an inappropriate message?
  - Is it a message from a stranger?
  - Is it a message from an adult who wants to meet with you alone?
  - Is it a mean message from a friend that makes you feel like you've just been bullied?
  - Is it anything else?

The answer to the bulleted questions is YES! There are steps they can take to stay safe and not be victims.

## SO WHAT SHOULD KIDS DO?

- ★ **Know who is texting or calling you.**  
Never use your phone to communicate with people you don't know.
- ★ **Know what NOT to send.** The impact of words or pictures can be significant.
- ★ **Know whether you should respond.**  
If you receive an inappropriate call or text message, tell a parent or trusted adult.



## WORKING WITH THE STUDENT MAGAZINE

Next, hand out the student magazine, and assign it as either class work or homework. The magazine includes a quiz about safety and courtesy on cell phones, a word search, and information that students may not know, but should! It also encourages students to talk to their parents/guardians about the contract in the family guide.

The answers for the quiz are provided for you here, as well as on the back page of the student magazine.

## FAMILY GUIDE

There is a family guide included in the program. It includes a contract so that parents/guardians and students can agree how to deal with inappropriate text or picture messages.

## EXTENSION LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

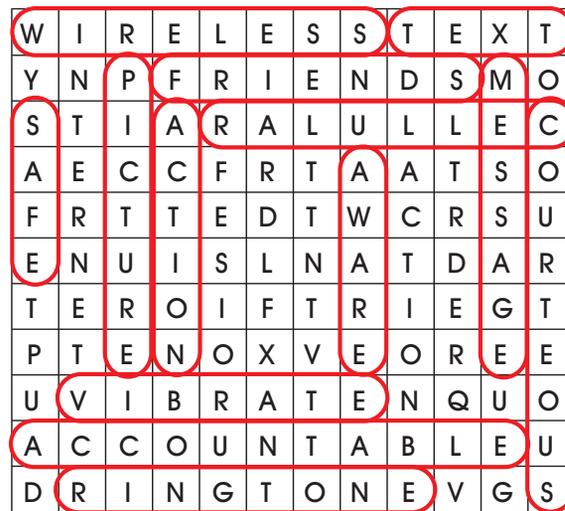
The following are extension lessons that you can do with students to continue the unit:

- Have students work in groups to create posters relating to cell phone safety and courtesy.
- Have pairs of students create their own skits, similar to the script, and have them perform them for the class.
- Have students write a letter to the person who created the cellular phone. What would they say and why?

## ANSWERS: HOW CELL SAVVY ARE YOU?

1) b 2) b 3) c 4) a 5) a 6) c 7) c 8) b

## WORD SEARCH



**AMBER Alert** stands for “America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response” and was created in 1997.

—[www.wirelessfoundation.org](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org)

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS ALL YEAR

Reiterate the following information to students:

### CELL PHONE COURTESY

- ★ Remember to speak in a normal or quiet voice when on your phone.
- ★ Follow all signs—some places like hospitals or airlines have rules about using cell phones.
- ★ Turn your phone to silent or vibrate before you go into religious services or other places where noise is not appropriate.
- ★ When you are with your friends or family, talk to them instead of talking on your phone.

### CELL PHONE SAFETY

- ★ Program your parents'/guardians' phone numbers into your phone for easy access.
- ★ Don't respond to a text or picture message from someone you don't know.
- ★ If you receive anything on your phone—a call, a text message, a picture or voicemail message—that makes you uncomfortable, tell an adult you trust.
- ★ Do not give out your address or other personal information if others can hear you.
- ★ If there is an emergency, don't wait, call 9-1-1.

What do you think? Please complete the enclosed reply card and survey, or go to [www.wrinsiders.com/wireless](http://www.wrinsiders.com/wireless) to complete them online.

**CTIA** The Wireless Foundation

[www.wirelessfoundation.org](http://www.wirelessfoundation.org)



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## IMPORTANT WEB SITES

**[www.wirelessamberalerts.org](http://www.wirelessamberalerts.org)**

Sign up to receive AMBER Alerts as free text messages on your cell phone if a child is abducted in your area



**[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)**

National Crime Prevention Council—Information to keep children safe

**[www.connectsafely.org](http://www.connectsafely.org)**

A non-profit interactive forum and resource center providing tips and videos, plus a place to ask questions, comment on issues, and discuss youth online safety with parents, experts, and teens

**[www.safekids.com](http://www.safekids.com)**

One of the Net's oldest and most comprehensive Internet safety sites

**[www.netfamilynews.org](http://www.netfamilynews.org)**

Kid-tech news for parents—the nonprofit “community newspaper” of tech parenting and children's online safety

**[www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com)**

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's hotline for reporting online child sexual exploitation; available 24/7 at 1-800-843-5678

**[www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)**

Online-safety advice and a searchable database of parental-controls software from the Washington, D.C. based Internet Education Foundation

**[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)**

A comprehensive UK-based site with multimedia online-safety resources, including a powerful short film on cyberbullying, “Let's Fight It Together”  
<http://www.digizen.org/cyberbullying/film.aspx>

**[www.CSRIU.org](http://www.CSRIU.org)**

Cyberbullying information from the Center for Safe & Responsible Internet Use

**[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)**

Online-safety education for kids, parents, educators, and law enforcement from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

**[www.staysafe.org](http://www.staysafe.org)**

Online-safety information for teens, parents, educators, and seniors, operated with support from Microsoft