



Blair- Taylor School District

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

In Digital Literacy our main goal is to make students good digital citizens. A few of the student learning outcomes by the end of the class include learning how to use Chromebooks and certain Google Applications, and being able to conduct research online while analyzing the credibility and bias possibly involved in certain sources.

With that being said we do watch the news at the beginning of class each morning; the students take a few notes during the news clip and then we discuss any questions or concerns the stories might bring up. The news that we watch is called CNN10 Student News. This news is a ten-minute synopsis of events happening throughout the world, so it provides a brief overview of the current events but does not include any opinions, comments, etc. from journalists or newscasters. I do preview CNN10 every morning before showing the students and then we discuss any issues of concern. The reason I show CNN10 is because it is specifically geared towards middle and high aged students with clear illustrations and general overviews. It also provides multiple perspectives on the topics all while maintaining a neutral position.

However, within our class, we will be focusing on the credibility of all sources including news sources. One of our units is the Ethics of Research where we will have a section dedicated to understanding different points-of-view and bias within documents, the credibility of sources, and fake news and the steps to take to see if it is. In this unit, I will show students how to analyze news stations and stories to see if they are fake or left/right-leaning with the website <https://www.allsides.com/unbiased-balanced-news>. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

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