Southmoreland School District
Grade 6-8 Explorations Curriculum Overview

Explorations Overview:

Twenty-first century Information Literacy Skills are integrated into curricular content areas and include locating, accessing and evaluating information; developing searching techniques; learning a research process; and using information ethically.

Module Titles:

Module 1: Primary/Secondary Sources
Module 2: Power Library/Be an Effective Reader
Module 3: Sources/Research Process
Module 4: Banned Books/Google Hacks
Module 5: Digital Citizenship
Module 6: Cyber Security
Module 7: Xello
Module 8: Duo-Lingo

Module Overviews:

Module 1: Primary/Secondary Sources
Finding and Evaluating Sources-This section teaches how to identify relevant and credible sources that you have most likely turned up on the Web and on your results pages of the library catalog, Google Scholar, and specialized databases. Relevant, credible sources will meet the information needs of your research project.

Module 2: Power Library/Be an Effective Reader
Selecting Literary Fiction, Non-Fiction, Informational Texts-Selecting the right texts can often be a challenge, but there are several effective literacy practices that can help make the process easier. Ask questions, consider social emotional learning, view book selection as a gift, not a problem, use the five finger rule: The five finger rule is a popular, quick and efficient way to check if a book is suitable for students.

Module 3: Sources/Research Process
Students will utilize a five step process to develop a topic and then conduct the research. The process involves topic development, locating and evaluating information, writing, and citing.

Module 4: Banned Books/Google Hacks

Finding and evaluating banned books-Teachers can help students better understand the history and impacts of banning books through the updated Banned Books portal. Through this portal, students can learn about the history of banning books and can better understand which groups—namely government and religious organizations—commonly ban books.

Module 5: Digital Citizenship

Using information ethically and responsibly-To use the work of others ethically, you will need to avoid plagiarizing by understanding how to quote, paraphrase, and cite the work of others.

Module 6: Cyber Security

Demonstrating technology etiquette and safety- Many students spend a big part of their day doing homework on their computers, chatting with friends on mobile devices, surfing social media platforms, and playing online games—activities that expose them to online threats. Teachers and parents who want to educate students about those dangers should understand how dishonest people exploit the internet, as well as ways that young people are especially vulnerable.

Module 7: Xello

Career awareness- skills, knowledge and plans for career pathways-Xello's award-winning program puts the student at the center of their planning experience. Students document their journey as they build self-knowledge, explore post-secondary options, create plans, and continually reassess as they take in new knowledge, skills, and experiences.

Module 8: Duo-Lingo Free language learning site for students-Duolingo lessons use interactive exercises to get you speaking, reading, writing, and listening right from the start. As you progress along the path, you'll work through more challenging exercises and will do even more speaking and writing in the language.