

## Criterion A: Initial investigation

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### **The problem and the inadequacies of the current situation**

Mrs. Haley Akmed, Head of ICT, feels that our current school rules are out of date and do not effectively address digital citizenship. She feels that everyone involved in the school community in primary school (K-5), middle school (6-8) and upper school (9-12) needs to support the responsible, ethical and legal uses of computer-based technologies.

Currently, there is no digital citizenship program in the school. Most of the students have never heard about “digital citizenship” and the current rules do not address issues relating to the internet. These issues include issues such as cyberbullying, netiquette and copyright. Recently a grade 8 student also tried to use a sniffing program to hack into the school server by collecting passwords. This is not the first time that grade 8 students have gotten in trouble by trying to by-passing security measures. Mrs. Akmed feels strongly that grade 8 students need to be involved in leading the digital citizenship campaign in the school.

In the interview conducted with Mrs. Akmed on May 4, 2009, she indicated that she would like to organize a collaborative project in grade 8 to formulate a school-wide set of rules for digital citizenship. At the same time she feels that grade 8 is a key year group to learn about the serious consequences that have resulted in the misuse of computers. Mrs. Akmed would to organize the grade 8 students into teams in order to “take action” and organize digital citizenship awareness activities across the school.

Word count = 247