



NEWS RELEASE

Department of Technology and Information

Contact: Chief Security Officer Elayne Starkey

302-739-9631



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION (DTI) SHARES CYBER SAFETY TIPS WITH 4TH GRADERS STATEWIDE Kick Off Presentation Held at Fairview Elementary

Dover - October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Delaware's Department of Technology and Information (DTI) is reaching out to 4th grade classrooms statewide with an interactive learning session on Cyber Safety. The classroom presentation stresses three points: protecting personal information; being safe when chatting and gaming online; and understanding the dangers of strangers online. DTI hopes to reach 7000 4th graders by the end of 2011. Since 2006, over 11,000 students have participated in the Cyber Safety Classroom program.

The 2011 program kicked off at Fairview Elementary in Dover on Friday October 21st. DTI Customer Relationship Specialist, Earle Dempsey, and Chief Security Officer, Elayne Starkey, conducted the presentation for three classes of enthusiastic students. New this year is an online cyber Homework Challenge which encourages students, parents and teachers to test their cyber savvy. There will be awards for the most cyber aware schools and teachers.

DTI has partnered with the Verizon Foundation and the Delaware Center for Educational Technology to take the cyber message to a larger audience this year. Verizon staff members will join DTI and other state agency presenters in visiting public, charter and private schools. A number of other events, activities and informational materials are being circulated in a variety of media to help all Delawareans to practice cyber safety every time they go online.

It is not too late for schools to request a presentation for the 4th graders this year. For more information visit DTI at digiknow.delaware.gov or call 302 739-9500. For more information on the Verizon Foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.

Photo caption: Earle Dempsey of the Department of Technology and Information provides tips for being safe online to 4th graders at Fairview Elementary School.

