ONE NETWORK

Digital Equity Newsletter

October 2023

Welcome to Literacy Minnesota's newest monthly newsletter – One Network. This newsletter is an overview of the digital equity services offered by organizations like Literacy Minnesota and resources for those wanting to know more about digital equity. For more information contact Frances Bates at fbates@literacymn.org.

Covered within this issue:

- **Staff Bios**
- **Digital Literacy Services**
  - Northstar Digital Literacy Program
  - Digital Navigation
  - Trainings and Workshops
- **Recent Activities**
  - DigiDaze
  - International Literacy Day
- **Other Minnesota Initiatives**
  - Descriptions of local organizations
  - Map of important digital equity locations
- **Community Bulletin**
- **What's Coming Up**
  - Zoom and Northstar webinars
  - Journeys Awards and Art Event (THIS WEEK)
- **Glossary**
- **Resources**

Literacy Minnesota

651-645-2277
https://www.literacymn.org/
700 Raymond Avenue Suite 180, Saint Paul, MN 55114

Mission: To share the power of learning through education, community building and advocacy.

Meet Our TEQuity Staff

Digital Equity Team

Eric Nesheim (He/Him)
Managing Director - Digital Strategies
651-251-9070
enesheim@literacymn.org

Theresa Sladek (She/Her)
National Partnerships and Northstar Business Development Specialist
651-251-9071
tsladek@literacymn.org

Frances Bates (She/Her)
TEQuity Services Program Coordinator
651-251-9099
fbates@literacymn.org

Digital Literacy – Distance Learning (DL-DL) Team

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt (She/Her)
Senior Manager - Educational Technology and Digital Literacy
651-251-9090
swbrandt@literacymn.org

Nick Houlson (He/Him)
Digital Navigator
651-251-9171
nhoulson@literacymn.org

Manee Thao (She/Her)
Distance Learning Coordinator
651-251-9157
mthao@literacymn.org

Other

Rob Podlasek (He/Him)
Training Director
651-251-9073
rpodlasek@literacymn.org

Our Digital Literacy Services

We offer support in a variety of areas including teaching digital skills and helping you get internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).
https://www.literacymn.org/digitalliteracy

Northstar

Our Northstar Digital Literacy platform assesses digital skills and provides classroom curriculum and self-directed online learning.

https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/

Digital Navigation

Digital Navigators mentor digital literacy learners in using technology, building skills and setting goals.

Midway Location: 553 Fairview Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104

The Midway digital literacy lab at Goodwill Easter Seals is open 10am to 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Manee is there the whole time and Nick is there in the afternoons. For more information on our services contact Susan at swbrandt@literacymn.org.

Training, Consulting & Resources

We apply our expertise to help your organization launch transformative digital literacy programming.
- https://www.literacymn.org/classesforadults
- https://www.literacymn.org/trainings-workshops

Affordable Connectivity Program

The ACP is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.
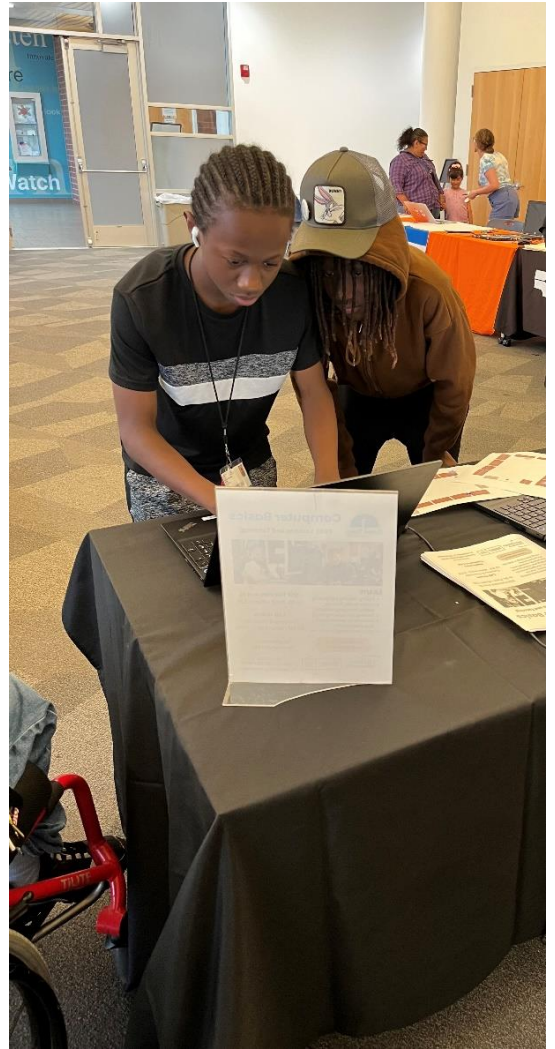https://www.literacymn.org/digitalliteracy#affordable-connectivity-program-resources

https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/
https://www.fcc.gov/acp

Recent Activities

Frances, Nick, and Mohamed represented Literacy MN at a local event called DigiDaze. We had lots of people come through, including some boys who stopped to check out our typing practice activity.

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY
WITH LITERACY MINNESOTA

Literacy Minnesota's <u>FREE</u> Community Open House

Friday, September 8

3 – 7 p.m.

627 W. Broadway Ave. North Minneapolis

Celebrate the joys of literacy and learning at all ages on International Literacy Day. Join us at **our new Open Door Learning Center** to connect with the community and receive giveaways!

Open Door
LEARNING CENTER

SCHOOL SUPPLIES   •   CHILDREN'S BOOKS   •   LOCAL RESOURCES

Literacy Minnesota

Thank you to Literacy Minnesota's community supporters!

HENNEPIN COUNTY
LIBRARY

Hennepin

Simon Says Give

Give

Other Initiatives in Minnesota

Neighborhood House

Neighborhood House

179 Robie St E
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Their Digital Inclusion team supports individuals and families in getting low-cost devices, highspeed internet connection in the home, and digital literacy skills. We will see if your household is eligible for Affordable Connectivity Program or Lifeline, which offers a discount on your monthly internet and/or phone bill. For more information contact Katrina Benson at kbenson@neighborhoodhousemn.org.

https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/

PCs for People

pcsforpeople

Main location: 1481 Marshall Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55104
Recycling Center: 2492 Doswell Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108

This is a nonprofit social enterprise working to get low-cost quality computers and internet into the homes of individuals, families, and nonprofits with low income.
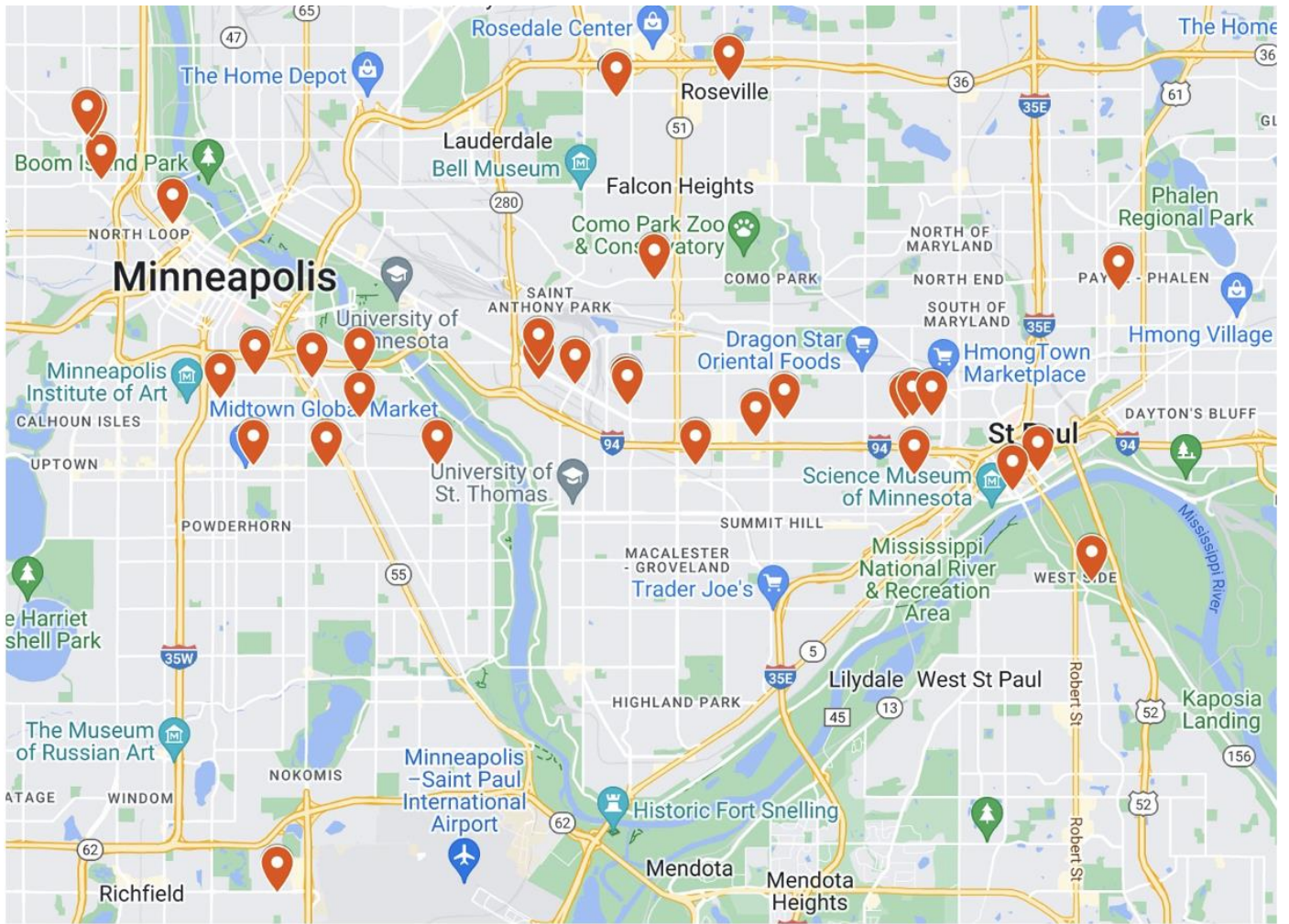
https://www.pcsforpeople.org/

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

Office of Broadband Development - 180 5th St E, Saint Paul, MN 55101
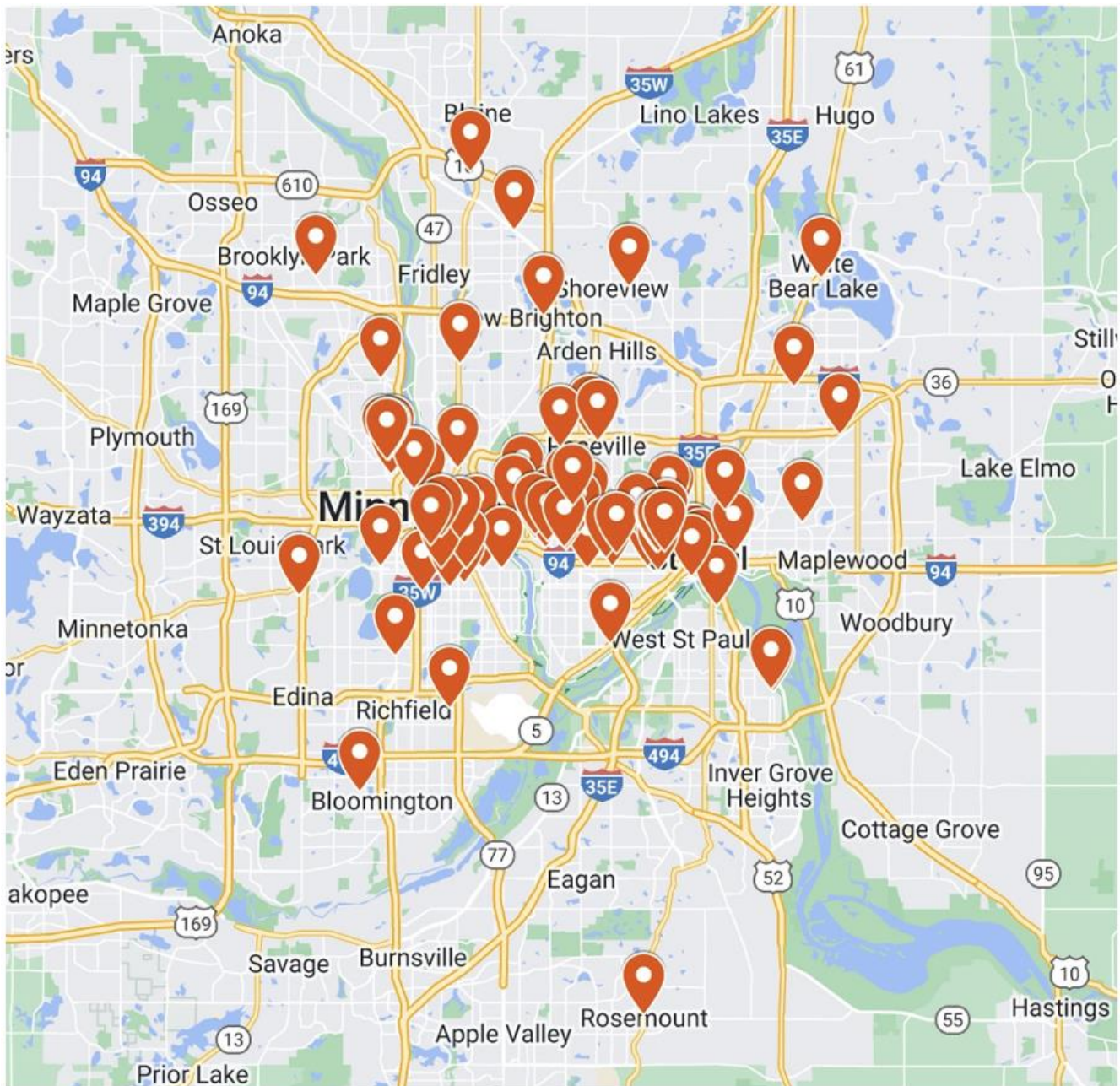https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/
Helping Minnesotans understand broadband options available and work together to improve availability and use of high-speed broadband services.

This map includes the Literacy MN headquarters, Open Door Learning Centers, Northstar locations, Neighborhood House, PCs for People and the Office of Broadband Development.

Community Bulletin

For our first segment on featuring the community, I thought I would show what our community looks like. I found over 80 places within Minnesota that are doing digital equity work. Literacy MN is connected to about 30 of these with Learning Centers and Northstar locations.

Tech and Recycling Centers
- **Saint Paul Neighborhood Network** https://spnn.org/
- **Micro Center** https://www.microcenter.com/
- **Free Geek Twin Cities** https://www.freegeektwincities.org/
- **Electronics Recycling of Minnesota** https://ecyclemn.com/
- **Repowered** https://getrepowered.org/

Education
- **Adult Basic Education**
  - http://mnabe.org/
  - https://www.metronorthabe.org/
  - https://metrosouth.org/
  - https://www.spps.org/Page/15613
  - https://www.spps.org/Domain/10994
  - https://abe.mpls.k12.mn.us/home
  - https://transplus.mpls.k12.mn.us/
  - https://thinkself.org/
- **Community Education**
  - https://www.spps.org/COMMED
  - https://www.tridistrictce.org/
  - https://communityed.isd623.org/
  - https://commed.mpls.k12.mn.us/Home
- **Other**
  - https://minnesotatraining.com/
  - https://ce.district279.org/

Libraries
- **Ramsey County** https://www.rclreads.org/
- **Hennepin County** https://www.hclib.org/

Recreation Centers
- **St. Paul** https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers/parks-recreation-programs/rec-tech-labs
- **Right Track**
  - https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/right-track
  - https://righttrack-app.stpaul.gov/
- **Minneapolis** https://www.minneapolisparks.org/activities-events/computer_labs/

Workforce Centers/Career Focused

- **Workforce Solutions** https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/departments/economic-growth-and-community-investment/workforce-solutions
- **CareerForce** https://www.careerforcemn.com/
- **Goodwill-Easter Seals** https://www.goodwilleasterseals.org/
- **Elpis Enterprises** https://elpisenterprises.org/
- **International Institute of Minnesota** https://iimn.org/
- **Twin Cities RISE!** https://twincitiesrise.org/
- **EMERGE** https://emerge-mn.org/
- **Hired** https://www.hired.org/

IT/STEM

- **Tech for Success** https://techforsuccess.org/
- **Minnesota State IT Center of Excellence** https://mnstateitcoe.org/
- **Osiris Organization** https://osirisorganization.org/

Cultural

- **COPAL MN** https://copalmn.org/en/home/
- **American Indian OIC & Takoda** https://takoda.org/
- **Asian Economic Development Association** https://aedamn.org/
- **Hmong Cultural Center** https://www.hmongcc.org/
- **Vietnamese Social Services** https://vssmn.org/

Religious

- **Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches** https://gmcc.org/
- **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota** https://www.lssmn.org/
- **Arrive Ministries** https://arriveministries.org/

Other

- **Project for Pride in Living** https://www.ppl-inc.org/
- **Roots Wellness Center** https://rwc-mn.com/
- **YWCA St. Paul** https://www.ywcastpaul.org/
- **Cookie Cart** https://cookiecart.org/

Happening this Month

Trainings and Workshops

For more information check our website: https://www.literacymn.org/trainings-workshops

Essential Zoom Skills for Online Instruction - Webinar
Presenter: Meghan Boyle
Next session: October 27th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Join this hands-on session to learn and practice essential Zoom skills for the virtual classroom that may not be in your repertoire if your experience with the platform is limited to meetings with friends and colleagues at work.

Tutoring with Northstar Digital Literacy - Webinar
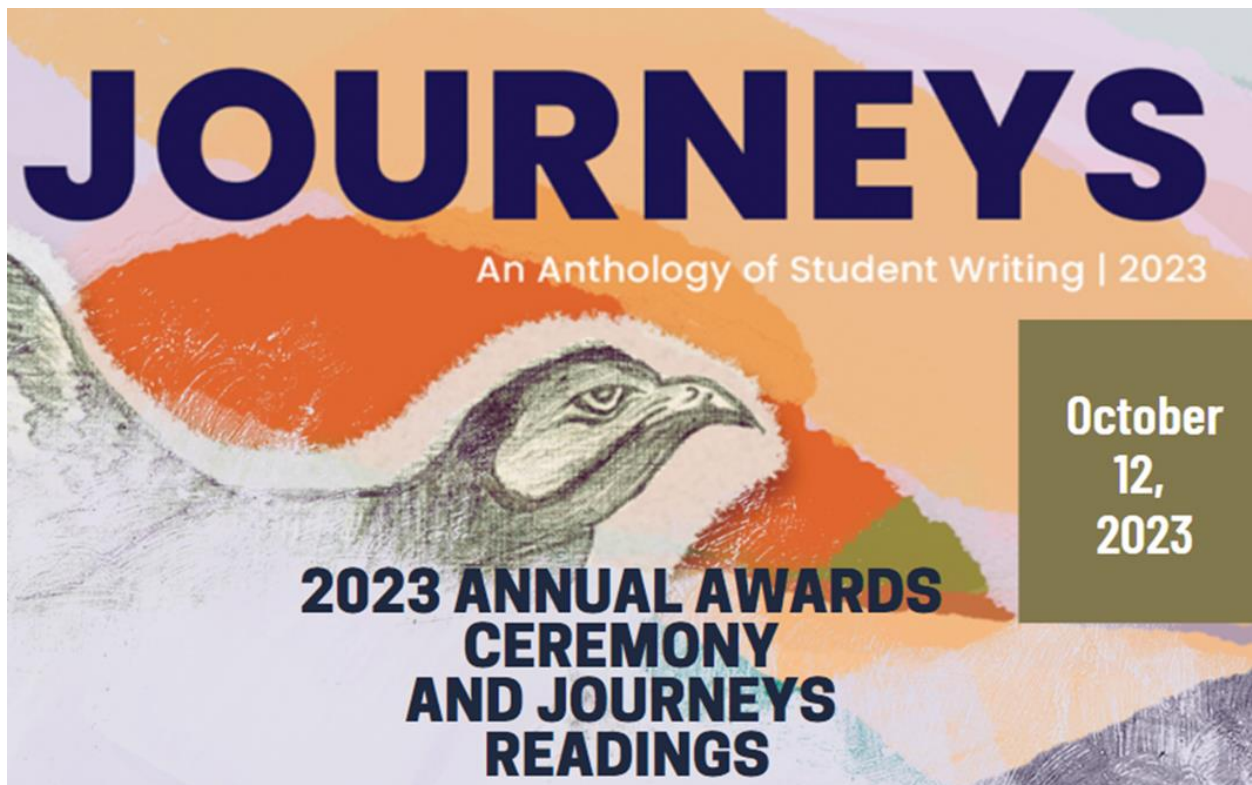Presenter: Rob Podlasek
Next session: November 15th from 1:00pm - 3:00pm

You don't need to be a computer expert in order to teach computer skills! Come learn how to help students build their digital literacy skills using Northstar Digital Literacy.

Events

Annual Awards Ceremony and Journeys Student Reading Event
October 12th from 6 to 9pm

Glossary

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
The ACP is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.

Browser
A software application (such as Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, or Mozilla Firefox) that allows users to access the Internet.

Digital Equity
A condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Sometimes called TEQuity/Tech Equity which is the shortening of technology equity.

Digital Literacy
The ability and knowledge needed to access and operate internet-connected devices, to successfully use commonly available software, and to navigate and utilize online resources in order to effectively communicate and complete social and work-related tasks in a virtual space.

Digital Navigators
Trusted guides who assist community members in internet adoption and the use of computing devices. Digital navigation services include ongoing assistance with affordable internet access, device acquisition, technical skills, and application support.

Email
A system (such as Google Gmail, Microsoft Outlook, and Yahoo! Mail) that allows the user to transmit messages electronically.

Internet
An electronic communications network that connects computer networks and organizational computer facilities around the world.

Network
A system that connects two or more computing devices for transmitting and sharing information.

Search Engine
Programs (such as Google, Bing, and Yahoo!) that allow you to find specific information online.

Server
A type of computer that is equipped with software and hardware to offer services to other computers connected to it.

Wi-Fi
A wireless networking technology that allows devices such as computers, smartphones, and other equipment (printers and video cameras) to interface with the Internet.

Resources

General

Connectivity Blueprint
https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/projects-initiatives/ramsey-connected-computer-internet-resources/connectivity-blueprint

Digital Equity Act
https://www.digitalequityact.org/

National Collaborative for Digital Equity (NCDE)
https://www.digitalequity.us/

National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)
https://www.digitalinclusion.org/

Glossary Sources

Internet vs. Wi-Fi
- https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/products/wireless/what-is-wifi.html
- https://www.longlines.com/blog/internet-vs-wifi-whats-the-difference#:~:text=Wi%2DFi%20connects%20devices%20within,%2C%20routers%2C%20and%20other%20infrastructure.

Other
- https://www.spiceworks.com/tech/networking/articles/what-is-a-computer-network/
- https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-server-definition-lesson-quiz.html
- https://thecenterfordigitalequity.org/
- https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/
- https://www.vocabulary.com/

Thanks for Sponsoring

COMCAST

Questions, comments, concerns, or just want to join our mailing list? - Contact Frances Bates at fbates@literacymn.org.

Mission: To share the power of learning through education, community building and advocacy.