Cybersecurity Analyst Teacher Tips

It would be difficult to name a career field with a hotter job outlook than cybersecurity. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, opportunities in information security are expected to grow 28 percent from 2016 to 2026, much faster than the average for all occupations. It doesn't hurt that the median salary for these types of jobs is currently listed at $95,510 per year (that's $45.92 per hour). Bottom line, the world needs more cybersecurity analysts!

DISCUSS
Ask students to think about what would happen if the Internet went down. Make a cause and effect list of the different ways companies, communities, and even entire countries could be affected.

READ
Students can read the text about cybersecurity analyst out loud together (as a class or in teams) or on their own.

CHALLENGE #1: If You Had This Career...
Several questions prompt students to dig into essential information in a first person way that facilitates personal connections. Students can find answers to these questions by:

- Using Google (or another approved Internet search engine) to make specific queries like "where do cybersecurity analysts work?" or "why is cybersecurity necessary?"
- Visiting career information websites like www.getmyfuture.org or www.mynextmove.org. Both of these websites are sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor.
- If available, tapping into your school's career development software platform (such as Career Cruising) or your state's career and college information system (such as www.CFNC.org).

CHALLENGE #2: Think Tank
Students are challenged to think about personal cybersecurity. As educators, you have probably already discovered that the Internet can be a blessing--and a curse--for your students. Unfortunately, hackers, stalkers, and identity thieves can be nondiscriminating in their choice of targets. Cyberbullying among peer groups is an all too common occurrence as well and students also need to take precautions against inappropriate content. Your challenge here is to help students determine "rules" and "tips" for staying safe online in a positive, age-appropriate way. Think about sharing the posters your students create with other students in your school.

EXTEND THE DISCUSSION
Consider sharing an interesting series of online videos about cybersecurity with your students. They can be found at https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/nova/cybersecurity.

FIND MORE CAREER EXPLORATION RESOURCES
Check out the Bright Futures Press career exploration collection of interactive books for middle grade readers at www.brightfuturespress.com. To share more career ideas related to cybersecurity, take a look at our *World of Work: Information Technology*, F*ind Your Future in Technology*, and *Choose a Career Adventure: Military* titles.