 Students should understand that they should never, ever, text one friend while they're spending time with another. That's rude and can make for hurt feelings. Text messaging and cell phone etiquette requires students to think about how their actions make other people feel.

Students should refrain from texting a friend when they're in a fight or are angry with one another. Ask your child to wait until she or he calms down, and then encourage him or her to work things out in person or over the phone.

Students should know that sometimes text messages are misunderstood because the recipient of the message can't see the sender's facial expressions or hear the tone of voice. Jokes and sarcastic comments may cause hard feelings if they're passed along in a text message.

Students should know that they should never give bad news in a text message. ("I heard our soccer coach quit!")

Students should understand that they are responsible for what they text to other people. Teach your child to refrain from gossiping about others, trashing others, and being unkind in general.

 It will be a few years before your student is behind the wheel of a car, but teach him that he should never text and drive. In the meantime, he should also know that he shouldn't text when he's engaged in other activities that require his full attention, such as bike riding, skate boarding, or in situations when he needs to be aware of what is going on around him.

 Your child should refrain from texting in class, at church, at dinner, at the movies, at a friend's birthday party, at a funeral, or in other public settings. The same applies if your family is going out for a nice meal or is involved in a family activity together.

 Texting or emailing should be regarded as a privilege, and your child should know that bad behavior will result in the loss of that privilege. Remind your child that part of the responsibility of using a mobile device is following mobile device etiquette rules. That's a responsibility of growing up.