

STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE REGULATIONS

These rules are intended to provide general guidelines and examples of prohibited uses but do not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by students. Failure to comply with these regulations may result in loss of computer and Internet access privileges, disciplinary action and/or legal action.

Computer Use is a Privilege, Not a Right

Student use of the school unit's computers, networks and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Unacceptable use/activity may result in suspension or cancellation of privileges as well as additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

The building principal shall have final authority to decide whether a student's privileges will be denied or revoked.

Acceptable Use

Student access to the school unit's computers, networks and Internet services are provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the school unit's educational mission, curriculum and instructional goals.

The same regulations and expectations govern student use of computers as apply to other student conduct and communications.

Students are further expected to comply with these regulations and all specific instructions from the teacher or other supervising staff member/volunteer when accessing the school unit's computers, networks and Internet services.

Prohibited Use

The student is responsible for his/her actions and activities involving school unit computers, networks and Internet services and for his/her computer files, passwords and accounts. Examples of unacceptable uses that are expressly prohibited include but are not limited to the following:

Accessing Inappropriate Materials - Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, forwarding, downloading, scanning or displaying materials that are defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing and/or illegal;

Illegal Activities - Using the school unit's computers, networks and Internet services for any illegal activity or activity that violates other policies, procedures and/or school rules;

Violating Copyrights - Copying or downloading copyrighted materials without the owner's permission;

Plagiarism - Representing as one's own work any materials obtained on the Internet (such as term papers, articles, etc.). When Internet sources are used in student work, the author, publisher and Web site must be identified;

Installing/Copying Software – Installing, copying or downloading software without the express authorization of the school Technologist or Educational Technician;

Non-School-Related Uses - Using the school unit's computers, networks and Internet services for non-school-related purposes such as private financial gain, commercial, advertising or solicitation purposes, or for any other personal use;

Misuse of Passwords/Unauthorized Access - Sharing passwords, using other students' or other users' passwords without permission and/or accessing other students' or users' accounts;

Malicious Use/Vandalism - Any malicious use, disruption or harm to the school unit's computers, networks and Internet services, including but not limited to hacking activities and creation/uploading of computer viruses; and

Unauthorized Access to Chat Rooms/News Groups – Accessing chat rooms or news groups without specific authorization from the supervising teacher.

Network Etiquette

The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:

Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.

Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.

Recognize that electronic mail (E-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may reported to the authorities.

Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.

Consider all communications and information accessible via the Network to be private property.

No Expectation of Privacy

The school department retains control, custody and supervision of all computers, networks and Internet services owned or leased by the school department. The school department reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by students. Students have no expectations of privacy in their use of school computers, including e-mail and stored files.

Compensation for Losses, Costs and/or Damages

The student and/or the student's parent/guardian shall be responsible for compensating the school unit for any losses, costs or damages incurred by the school department related to violations of policy and/or these regulations, including investigation of violations.

School Department Assumes No Responsibility for Unauthorized Charges, Costs or Illegal Use

The school department assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges made by students including but not limited to credit card charges, long distance telephone charges, equipment and line costs, or for any illegal use of its computers such as copyright violations.

Student Security

A student shall not reveal his/her full name, address or telephone number on the Internet. Students should inform their supervising teacher if they access information or messages that are dangerous, inappropriate or make them uncomfortable in any way.

System Security

The security of the school department's computers, networks and Internet services is a high priority. Any student who identifies a security problem must notify the building technologist or computer educational technician. The student shall not demonstrate the problem to others. Any student who attempts or causes a breach of system security shall have his/her privileges revoked and may be subject to additional disciplinary and/or legal action.

Students shall not intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet Network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws.

Student Eligibility

At each quarterly ranking period, the principal will update the list of students who are not eligible to use school computers. This list will be distributed to the staff, and parents will be notified of any change in eligibility of their children.

K. Parental Permission Required

Students and their parent/guardian are required to sign and return the Computer/Internet Access Acknowledgment Form before being allowed to use school computers.

Adopted: March 4, 1997

Revised: October 19, 2004