

INTERNET AND NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Definition of terms

North Bellmore Public Schools computer network refers to the interconnection of computers, servers and other electronic devices within a classroom, school, or district which facilitates file sharing, resource sharing, communication, collaboration, management, and access to remote resources. The Internet is a decentralized network of computer networks that provides connectivity to commercial, educational, organization and government resources and facilitates local and global communication. Internet filtering is a method by which information that is available on the Internet but is deemed inappropriate for children is made unavailable for general viewing.

Philosophy

North Bellmore Union Free School District recognizes that students and staff must have access to technological resources to meet the information needs of their work and assignments. As a result, the district will provide teachers and students with access to the Internet that will enable users to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and web sites as part of the instructional process. Internet access from school computers will be supervised and reserved solely for educational purposes. It is our philosophy that when students identify, synthesize, and use the vast, rapidly expanding electronic resources, students will build appropriate responsibility and techniques for sustainable lifelong learning.

While district Internet safety guidelines have been developed to ensure responsible use of our computer network and the Internet, we respect each family's right to deny independent Internet use by their children in school.

Responsibilities

It is the District's responsibility to provide guidance to students as they utilize Internet resources to conduct research and other studies related to the District's curriculum. This includes instruction concerning Internet safety and the code of ethics involved with this new global community. However, with access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Although electronic materials are selected for their educational value and Internet resources are filtered for inappropriate content, the security, accuracy and quality of information that is available through our network cannot be guaranteed. At the same time, there is an inherent responsibility on the part of the users to

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conduct themselves in an appropriate and considerate manner when using this medium. Therefore, all users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette described in this policy.

Parent/Guardian Option

Parents/guardians may deny their child independent access to the Internet at any time by submitting a letter to the school. However, teacher-directed Internet activities are part of our curriculum and not subject to parent/guardian authorization.

User Acknowledgement

The guidelines contained in the Internet Safety Regulations (4526.1-R) instruct and inform students, district employees and parents/guardians about the expectations that are associated with the responsible use of our computer network and the Internet. Although Internet safety will be discussed throughout the year with students, third through sixth grade students will acknowledge with a signature their understanding of the District's policy and guidelines set forth in this Acceptable Use Policy. With this in mind, parents/guardians should discuss this Acceptable Use Policy and its regulations with their children. The form signed by students will be kept on file by the classroom teacher for the duration of each year.

Privacy

Network users have **NO EXPECTATION** of privacy with respect to any data stored or retrieved via the district email, or used in conjunction with the District Network. School officials shall monitor the use of the district network and email, and can and will search, at any time, files, email or other data stored on the network, including disks and other portable storage devices.

Ref: Public Law No. 106-554
47 USC §254
20 USC §6801

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