Acceptable Use Policy
Technology Standards for Wortham ISD

USE OF INTERNET IN CLASSROOMS AND DISTRICT NETWORK

In order for students to be able to use the internet, they along with their parents or guardian must sign and return this statement as part of its Internet safety policy. Teachers will directly monitor a student's behavior and acceptable use of the internet resources and school network. A student is not allowed to use the internet without a teacher present and accepting responsibility to monitor use. Districts must educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking Web sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Wortham ISD's internet access has filtering for content in place. However, this filtering cannot be relied on to filter all content under all circumstances. Any unethical use of the network by students within the district will be a direct responsibility of the teacher who sponsors that student. Any malicious behavior or unethical use of the networks will be addressed by the Student Code of Conduct with level offenses assigned to certain acts.

STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES

Students of Wortham ISD will properly utilize technologies. Accounts are to be used primarily for educational purposes. Proper use includes real-world problem solving, independent and group productivity, research, design and synthesis of idea and/or stimulation exploration, experimentation, assessment and evaluation processes.

All students will understand acceptable use policies. Students wishing to utilize the district network and internet resources will be required to have a teacher monitor their access. All students will be required to follow ethical use and copyright laws. Infringement of these policies will result in restriction or limited use of technology in Wortham ISD. Public domain software may not be uploaded or downloaded by a student without permission from the District Technology Director.

Technology tools are provided by the district for appropriate educational objective (i.e. games such as solitaire or any online games will not be played during school hours) online videos may be watched for educational purposes. Students utilizing technology for unauthorized purposes may be restricted from or lose privileges to district technologies.

Students will maintain equipment and report any equipment failure, damage or loss to their teacher. A student's failure to report important damage or loss may restrict use or loss of privileges to technologies. Since technology equipment is school property, student violation or abuse of this equipment will be subject to disciplinary action as defined in the Student Code of Conduct.

ON-LINE CONDUCT

1. The individual in whose name a system account is issued will be responsible at all times for its proper use.
2. The system may not be used for illegal purposes, in support of illegal activities, or for any other activity prohibited by District policy or guidelines.
3. System users may not use another person's system account without written permission from the technology director.
4. Students may not distribute personal information about themselves or others by means of the electronic communication system.
5. System users may not redistribute copyrighted programs or data except with the written permission of the copyright holder or designee. Such permission must be specified in the document or must be obtained directly from the copyright holder or designee in accordance with applicable copyright laws, District policy and administrative regulations.
6. System users may not send or post messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation or illegal.
7. System users may not purposefully access materials that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to other's reputation or illegal.
8. System users may not gain unauthorized access to resources or information.

VANDALISM PROHIBITED

Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy District equipment or data of another user of the District's system, or any other agencies or other networks that are connected to the internet is prohibited. Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance are violations of District policy and administrative regulations and may constitute criminal activity under applicable state and federal laws. such prohibited activity includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses or harmful program components.

Vandalism as defined above will result in the cancellation of system use privileges and will require restitution for cost associated with system restoration, as well as other appropriate consequences.

FORGERY PROHIBITED

Forgery or attempted forgery of electronic mail messages is prohibited. Attempts to read delete copy or modify the electronic mail of other system users, deliberate interference with the ability of other system users to send/receive electronic mail, or the use of another person's user ID and/or password is prohibited.

INFORMATION CONTENT/THIRD-PARTY SUPPLIED INFORMATION

System users and parents of students with access to the District's system should be aware that use of the system may provide access to other electronic communication systems in the global electronic network that may contain inaccurate and/or objectionable material.

A student who gains access to such material is expected to discontinue the access as quickly as possible and to report the incident to the supervising teacher. A student knowingly bringing prohibited materials into the school's electronic environment will be subject to suspension of access and/or revocation of privileges on the District's system and will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

An employee knowingly bringing prohibited materials into the school's electronic environment will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District policies.

PARTICIPATION IN CHAT ROOMS AND NEWSGROUPS

Participating in chat rooms and news groups accessed on the internet is only permissible for students under the appropriate supervision of a teacher. The monitoring teacher must gain permission for such activities from the district technology director.

NETWORK ETIQUETTE

System users are expected to observe the following network etiquette:

1. Be polite always. Messages typed in capital letters are the computer equivalent of shouting and considered rude.
2. Use appropriate language, swearing, vulgarity, ethnic, or racial slurs, and any other inflammatory language are prohibited.
3. Pretending to be someone else when sending/receiving messages is considered inappropriate.
4. Transmitting obscene messages or pictures is prohibited.
5. Using the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users is prohibited.

I have read the District's Standards for Technology and Acceptable Use Policy and agree to abide by the state provisions. In consideration for the privilege of using the District's electronic communications system and in consideration for having access to the public networks, I hereby release the District, its operators and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damage of any nature arising from my use of, or inability to use, the system, including without limitation, the type of damage identified in the District's policy and administrative regulations.

I ____do/do not____ give permission for my child to participate in the District's communications system and
    (circle one only)
certify that the information contained on the form is correct.

I ____do/do not____ give permission for the school to publish my child's picture and name on the school's website
    (circle one only) or newspaper.

Students signature_____
Grade _____School_____

Parent/Guardian signature_____
Date _____Phone #_____

Home Address

_____
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