

## **NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR STUDENTS**

The Board of Education is committed to the goal of having electronic network facilities used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Access to the Nanuet Public School's network, Internet, e-mail, and online tools is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others in relation to school work. Access to these network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent or guardian permission is required.

### ***BLOCKING and FILTERING***

District guidelines for Internet use prohibit access to material that is inappropriate in the school environment as per the Federally-enacted Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) which forbids school-based access to potentially harmful material including but not limited to pornography, obscenities, and sites that promote violence or sell weapons.

The district has installed filtering software in an attempt to block user access to inappropriate and/or harmful content on the Internet. The software works by scanning Web site addresses, Web site content, e-mail, and other documents for objectionable words or concepts. When the software finds any such objectionable words or concepts, it denies the user access to them based on the level of access assigned to the word or concept by the district. Generally, levels of access go from the least restrictive, which allows the users access to the Web site or document that contains the word or concept, to the most restrictive level which denies users access to the Web or document that contains the word or concept. The default level of access that will be granted to students is set for most restrictive. Modifying the filter or de-filtering Internet access for students is possible when educationally appropriate. No software is one hundred percent effective and it is possible the software could fail. In the event that the filtering software is unsuccessful and children gain access to inappropriate and/or harmful material, the district will not be liable.

### ***PLAGIARISM AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT***

Students will not plagiarize works that they find on the Internet. Plagiarism is the taking of ideas or writing of others and presenting them as if they were original to the user. Students will respect the rights of copyright owners and not infringe on these rights. Copyright infringement occurs when an individual inappropriately reproduces a work that is protected by copyright. If a work contains language that specifies acceptable use of that work, the students should follow the expressed requirements. If the student is unsure whether or not they can use a work, he/she should request written permission from the copyright owner. A copy of the written permission will be kept on file with the District Director of Technology.

### ***PERSONAL SAFETY***

Student users will not post or transmit photographs or personal contact information about themselves or other people without prior written consent from the parent of the student whose information is being posted. Such consent must be delivered, in writing, to the child's teacher or principal. Personal contact information includes, but is not limited to, home address, telephone number, school name, school address, and classroom.

Student users will not agree to meet with someone they have met online without their parent's approval and participation.

Student users will promptly disclose to their teacher or other school employee any message they receive that is inappropriate or that makes them feel uncomfortable.

*Access is a privilege, not a right.* Therefore, based upon acceptable use guidelines outlined in this policy, network administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decisions are final. The network administrators may close a user's account at any time. Users must acknowledge their understanding of this policy as a condition of using a district network account and Internet resources.

### **ACCEPTABLE USE**

Acceptable use of the network and Internet includes activities which support teaching and learning. Use of district accounts should be for assignments or research for school-related activities or courses.

E-mail may be provided for the purpose of exchanging information consistent with the mission of the district. The district provided e-mail cannot be used for political or religious purposes. E-mail messages are subject to district review at any time.

### **UNACCEPTABLE USE**

Unacceptable uses of telecommunications and the network include, but are not limited to:

- Using the network for any illegal activity, including but not limited to, violation of copyright or other contracts
- Using the network for financial or commercial gain
- Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance including, but not limited to, developing or spreading computer viruses
- Vandalizing the data of another user
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities
- Invading the privacy of others
- Sharing account information with another person
- Using an account owned by another without authorization
- Posting personal communications without the author's consent
- Posting anonymous messages
- Placing unlawful information on a system
- Using profanity, obscenity or any abusive or otherwise objectionable language in either private or public messages
- Accessing material that is profane or obscene, that advocates illegal or dangerous acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people. (A special exception may be made if the purpose is to conduct research and is approved in writing by both the teacher and the parent or guardian.)
- Sending messages that are likely to result in the loss of a recipient's work or systems
- Sending "chain letters" or "broadcast" messages to lists or individuals, and any other types of use which would cause congestion of the networks or otherwise interfere with the work of others
- Wastefully using finite resources

District staff will teach proper techniques and standards for participation, for guiding student access to appropriate sections of the network, and for making sure that students understand that if they misuse the network, they will lose use of their network account and Internet access. In order for students to obtain use of a district account, students and their parents or guardians, must complete a *Student Application for Use of a Network and Internet Account* upon entering each of Nanuet's four schools. The person using the account shall be responsible for its proper use.



The district will rigorously uphold laws pertaining to the use of technological equipment and the information contained in them and/or generated by its use. Anyone found to be violating such laws will be subject to suit for civil damages as well as prosecution by the district to the full extent of the law.

Interpretation, application, and modification of this policy are within the sole discretion of the district. Any questions or issues regarding this policy should be directed to the district administration.



## STUDENT APPLICATION FOR USE OF A NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCOUNT

**Application must be renewed upon entry to a new building.**

### STUDENT

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

- I have read and agree to comply with the Acceptable Use Procedures.
- I have discussed this policy with my parent or guardian.
- I understand these policies.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### PARENT OR GUARDIAN

- I have read the Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Students.
- I will monitor my child's use of the network and his/her potential access to the Internet, and will accept responsibility for supervising him/her when he/she is not in a school setting.
- I understand that my child may be subject to certain disciplinary consequences if he/she violates these rules.
- I realize that under law I may be held financially responsible for the willful, malicious or unlawful damage of property by my minor child.
- I will not hold the Nanuet Union Free School District responsible for controversial materials acquired while on-line.
- I give my permission for my child to be allowed to use a District network account and access the Internet.
- I give my permission for school work created by my child to be posted in electronic format (e.g. online, CD, DVD, etc.) identifying the work with my child's first and last initial or first name and last initial only.
- I give my permission for my child to participate in the use of Web resources (e.g. e-mail, blogs, Wikis, etc.) for school related work and projects.
- I certify that the information on this form is correct.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_