

Student Use of the Internet

The Internet and electronic communications (e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of electronic communication) have vast potential to support curriculum and student learning. The Board of Education believes they should be used in schools as a learning resource to educate and to inform.

Use of the Internet and electronic communications require students to think critically, to analyze information, to write clearly, to use problem-solving skills and to hone computer and research skills that employers demand. Use of these tools also encourages an attitude of lifelong learning and offers an opportunity for students to participate in distance learning activities, ask questions of and consult with experts, communicate with other students and individuals, and locate material to meet educational and personal information needs.

The Board believes the educational opportunities inherent in these tools far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material not consistent with the education goals of the district. However, the Internet and electronic communications are fluid environments in which students may access materials and information from many sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The Board acknowledges that while it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate it desires to take all reasonable steps to protect students from accessing material and information that is obscene, child pornography, or otherwise harmful to minors. Students shall take responsibility for their own use of district computers and computer systems to avoid contact with material or information that may be harmful to minors.

Software that blocks or filters material and information that is obscene, child pornography or otherwise harmful to minors is used by the District. Students shall report access to material and information that is obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors, or otherwise in violation of this policy to the supervising staff member. If a student becomes aware of other students accessing such material or information, he or she shall report it to the supervising staff member.

District computers and computer systems are owned by the district and are intended for educational purposes. Students shall have no expectation of privacy when using the Internet or electronic communications. The district reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store (at any time and without prior notice) all usage of district computers and computer systems, including all Internet and electronic communications access and transmission/receipt of materials and information. All material and information accessed/received through district computers and computer systems shall remain the property of the school district.

Students shall use district computers and computer systems in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner.

Because technology and ways of using technology are constantly evolving, every unacceptable use of district computers and computer systems cannot be specifically described in policy. Therefore, examples of unacceptable uses include but are not limited to, the following: No student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit, or forward material or information:

- That promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturing or purchasing of destructive devices or weapons
- That is not related to district education objectives
- That contains pornographic, obscene, or other sexually oriented materials, either as pictures or writings, that are intended to stimulate erotic feelings or appeal to prurient interests in nudity, sex or excretion.

- That harasses, threatens, demeans, or promotes violence or hatred against another person or group of persons
- For personal profit financial gain, advertising, commercial transaction or political purposes
- That plagiarizes the work of another without express consent
- That uses inappropriate or profane language likely to be offensive in the school community
- That is knowingly false or could be construed as intending to purposely damage another person's reputation
- In violation of any federal or state law, including but not limited to copyrighted material and material protected by trade secret
- That contains personal information about themselves or others, including information protected by confidentiality laws
- Using another individual's Internet or electronic communications account without written permission from that individual, that impersonates another, or transmits through an anonymous remailer that accesses free services without specific permission from the system administrator

Security on district computer systems is a high priority. Students who identify a security problem while using the Internet or electronic communications or who inadvertently access inappropriate content or sites must immediately notify the District Technology Coordinator. Students shall not demonstrate the problem to other users.

Students shall not:

- use another person's password or any other identifier
- gain or attempt to gain unauthorized access to district computers or computer systems
- read, alter, delete or copy, or attempt to do so, electronic communications of other system users
- bypass or attempt to bypass or otherwise defeat system security settings

Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the Internet and electronic communications.

Students shall not reveal personal information such as home address or phone number, while using the District's Internet or electronic communications, without first obtaining permission of the supervising staff member. Students shall not use their last name or any other information that might allow another person to locate him or her. Students shall not arrange face-to-face meetings with persons met on the Internet or through electronic communication.

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in school disciplinary action and/or legal action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious or intentional attempt to harm, destroy, modify, abuse or disrupt operation of any network within the school district or any network connected to the Internet, operation of any form of electronic communications, the data contained on any network or electronic communications, the data of another user, usage by another user, or district-owned software or hardware. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses and the use of encryption software.

Students are prohibited from using or possessing any software that has been downloaded or is otherwise in the user's possession without appropriate registration and payment of any fees owed to the software owner.

The district will make every effort to see that the Internet and electronic communications are used responsibly by student. Administrators, teachers, and staff have a professional responsibility to work together to monitor students' use of the Internet and electronic communications, help students develop the intellectual skills needed to discriminate among information sources, to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels, and evaluate and use information to meet their educational goals. Students shall have specifically defined objectives and search strategies prior to accessing material and information on the Internet and through electronic communications.

Use of the Internet and electronic communications demands personal responsibility and an understanding of the acceptable and unacceptable uses of such tools. Student use of the Internet and electronic communications is a privilege, not a right. Failure to follow the use procedures contained in this policy, will result in the loss of the privilege to use these tools and may result in school disciplinary action and/or legal action. The school district may deny, revoke or suspend access to district technology or close accounts at any time.

Parents/guardians and students aged 18 and older shall be required to sign the district's Acceptable Use Agreement annually before Internet or electronic communication accounts shall be issued or access shall be allowed.

The school district makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, related to the use of district computers and computer systems, including access to the Internet and electronic communications services. Providing access to these services does not imply endorsement by the district of the content, nor does the district make any guarantee as to the accuracy or quality of information received. The School District shall not be responsible for any damages, losses or costs a student suffers in using the Internet and electronic communications. This includes loss of data and service interruptions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet and electronic communications is at the student's own risk.

Legal References:

47 U.S.C. 254 (Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000)

47 U.S.C. 231 (Child Online Protection Act of 1998)

20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq. (Elementary and Secondary Education Act)

Grinnell Newburg Behavior Code

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Grinnell-Newburg School District, Grinnell, IA

