

Computer and Network Acceptable Use Policy

The archdiocese schools are fortunate to have a connection to the Internet to supplement the other resources already available to staff and students. Through the Internet, your child will have the entire world at his or her fingertips and be able to explore it.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that will not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Internet may contain material that is objectionable from many points of view. There is, however, a wealth of educational material avail

This wonderful resource brings with it additional responsibility. As Internet users, we must be aware of the many issues that surround the Internet. There are many valuable resources available on the Internet that may not be found elsewhere. At the same time there are many sites that can be considered inappropriate for students and server not educational value. It is the responsibility of all users, staff and students alike, to ensure that, at all times while in an Archdiocese of Boston school, the Internet is being used only for educational purposes. Student use of the Internet will be under the supervision of School staff, but due to the nature of the Internet and evolving technology, even with supervision, students might get to an inappropriate site. It is the student's responsibility to report any inappropriate site to the teacher and return to the educational topic assigned.

The Archdiocese of Boston School Department has decided to use Internet filtering software. This software is designed to identify web sites that educators believe are inappropriate for students and to prohibit access to those sites. However, no system is perfect. On a global network it is impossible to control access to all materials that are objectionable or inappropriate. In addition, a persistent user may be able to gain access to sites that are supposed to be filtered. The School cannot and does not represent that users will not have access to inappropriate or objectionable material. Parents and guardians must consider this in deciding whether to permit their children access to the Internet.

It is important that you and your children understand that any violation of this Acceptable Use Policy ("AUP") may result in the loss of Internet and e-mail privileges or other disciplinary action similar to violation of other school policies. We ask that you work with your children in reinforcing the behaviors associated with the AUP and the attached student contract.

It is the policy of the Archdiocese Department of Education and the school that all technology used to access the network will be used in a responsible, legal and ethical manner. Failure to do so will result in the termination of network and e-mail privileges for the user.

Individual users of the network—students and adults--are responsible for their use of the network. The use of the network must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with academic actions of the Schools and will be under the supervision of School staff. Use of other organization's networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Use of the network for any illegal or commercial activities is prohibited.

The Archdiocese Department of Education and the school make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Archdiocese Department of Education and the school will not be responsible for any damages you suffer while on the system. These damages include loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via Internet is at your own risk. The Archdiocese Department of Education and the school specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy of quality of information obtained through its services.

Security is a high priority on computer networks. If you identify a security problem, you must notify a teacher or school administrator immediately. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. You may not use the Internet to discuss or disseminate information regarding security problems or how to gain unauthorized access to sites, servers, files, etc.

A responsible network user will:

- Use language that is considered appropriate.
- Be polite.
- Send information that other users will not find offensive.
- Conform to copyright laws.
- Never reveal personal information about yourself or any other user such as address, telephone number, credit card numbers, social security number, etc.
- Neither tamper with the system nor alter, delete or destroy any files or data that are not yours.
- Use the school network only during times assigned or otherwise permitted by each individual school.
- Never disclose their access password or use the access password of another.

A responsible network user must be aware that:

- The school network is to be used only for educational purposes.
- Only the authorized owner of the account shall use any Internet account. No attempt to gain unauthorized access to accounts on the Internet is permitted.
- Attempts to obtain access to restricted sites, servers, files, databases, etc. are prohibited. Unauthorized access to other systems (e.g. "hacking") is prohibited.
- E-mail is not guaranteed to be private or confidential and may be reviewed under the following or other circumstances:
 - Routine system maintenance.
 - General inspection or monitoring, with or without notice, if there is reasonable suspicion of system wide inappropriate use.
 - Specific review of individual files or monitoring of individual activity, with or without notice, if there is individualized reasonable suspicion of inappropriate use.
 - General monitoring of Web research activities with as part of ongoing network management.
- Violation of this policy will result in the possible loss of Internet privileges and/or disciplinary action pursuant to the School Discipline Policy.
- Persons issued an account are responsible for its use at all times.
- Students and Staff should report violations of this policy to a teacher or school administrator.

Student Network and Internet Agreement:

PARENT or GUARDIAN As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and this contract. I understand that access to the Internet resources is designed for educational purposes. I understand that controversial material is available on the Internet and the contact with unknown individuals or groups may be possible through the Internet. Acknowledging that my child may gain access to controversial material or may make contact with unknown individuals or groups, I hereby give permission for my child to have access to and to use the Internet through the school network.

I further acknowledge that the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, a Corporation Sole, including the Archdiocese Department of Education, does not guarantee that students, including my child, will not gain access to controversial material or make contact with unknown individuals or groups. I agree for myself and my child that I will not hold the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, a Corporation Sole, including the Archdiocese Department of Education, or the school responsible of liable for materials my child may acquire or access while on the Internet or for those individuals or groups my child may come into contract with while on the Internet. I acknowledge and agree for my child and myself that my child may use the Internet through the school network at my child's own risk. I hereby release and discharge the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, a Corporation Sole, including the Archdiocese Department of Education, and the school from and against any and all liability associated with any claim arising out of my child's use of the Internet or the school network.

I agree to report any misuse of the Internet resources to an Archdiocese Department of Education or the school administrator. I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I understand that my child's violation of the Internet AUP will result in the loss of Internet access and/or my child's user account; may result in other disciplinary action; and may constitute a criminal offense. I hereby give my permission for my child to access the Internet and I give permission to the school to issue an account for my child. I certify that the information contained on this application is correct.

Parent or Guardian Name (Please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

STUDENTS: I understand and agree to adhere to the behaviors outlined in the Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that any violation of this policy may result in the loss of Internet and e-mail privileges, or other disciplinary action according to existing school policy.

I understand that if I do not sign this agreement, I will not be permitted to use the Internet and e-mail in school.

Signature: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Please print student name: _____ Grade _____