

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

OVERVIEW

The Internet is an electronic communications network which provides vast, diverse, and unique resources. Our Internet access will be available through a commercial provider on one or more computers in the computer lab and school library. The Internet is an electronic superhighway connecting thousands of computers all over the world. Students, teachers, staff, and even parents will have access to:

1. Worldwide electronic mail communication.
2. Global information and news.
3. Public domain and shareware computer software of all types.
4. Discussion groups on numerous topics from the environment to music and politics.
5. Access to many university libraries, the Library of Congress, ERIC, and others.

GUIDELINES

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. The operation of the Internet relies heavily on the proper conduct of the users who must adhere to strict guidelines. At school, student access to and use of the Internet will be under teacher direction and will be monitored as any other classroom activity. If a district user violates any of these provisions, their access to the Internet will be terminated and future access will be denied.

1. Acceptable use—The use of the Internet must be in support of education and research that is consistent with the educational goals and policies of the Knowlton Township Board of Education.
2. Privileges—The use of the Internet is not a right, but a privilege, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of that privilege. An account may be closed by the district at any time deemed necessary or by recommendation of the administration, faculty, or staff.

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3. Net Etiquette—You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of etiquette, including:
 - a. Be polite in your messages to others.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear or engage in any activities prohibited under state or federal law.
 - c. Do not reveal your address or phone number or those of others.
 - d. Note that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private.
 - e. Do not disrupt the network or the data of other users.

The following represent some of the inappropriate uses that may occur:

- a. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts.
 - b. Degrading or disrupting equipment of system performance.
 - c. Vandalizing the data of another user.
 - d. Wastefully using finite resources.
 - e. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
 - f. Using an account owned by another user without authorization.
 - g. Posting anonymous message.
 - h. Placing of unlawful information on a system.
 - i. Using abusive or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages.
 - j. Sending of “Chain letters,” or “broadcast” messages to lists or individuals or any other types of use which would cause congestion of the networks or otherwise interfere with the work of others.
 - k. Using the network to lobby for votes.
 - l. Using the network to access a file that contains inappropriate pictures or information.
 - m. Using the network to send offensive or inappropriate messages.
 - n. Using the network to send/receive a message that is inconsistent with the school’s code of conduct.
4. Warranties—The Knowlton Township Board of Education makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The school district will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through this Internet connection.

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5. Vandalism—Vandalism will result in cancellation of your privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or network and includes the creation of or the uploading of computer viruses onto the Internet or host site.
6. Security—Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Users must never allow others to use their id or password. Do not use another individual's account.
7. Procedures for use—Student users must always get permission from their instructors and/or librarian before using the network or accessing any specific file or application. Follow written and oral instructions.
8. Encounter of Controversial Materials—Users may encounter material which is controversial and which users, parents, teachers or administrators may consider inappropriate or offensive. It is the user's responsibility not to initiate access to such material. It is also their responsibility to report such material to their adult supervisor.

In summary, students and staff must accept personal responsibility for reporting any misuse of the network to the system administrator. Misuse can come in many forms, but it is commonly viewed as any messages sent or received that indicate or suggest any inappropriate language or material. All the rules of conduct described apply when you are on the network. With this new learning tool, students and staff must understand and practice proper and ethical use. All students and staff must understand the procedures, ethics, and security involving using the Internet before receiving authorization to use the system.

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Internet User Contract

I, _____, understand the procedures outlined in the Knowlton Township Internet User Policy and will abide by those rules. I also understand that any inappropriate conduct will be dealt with as deemed appropriate by the administration. This may include, but is not restricted to, immediate revocation of Internet access rights and/or other administration action. I realize that I am fully responsible for my actions. In using this network, I promise to:

- Be respectful of the rights, the ideas, the information and the privacy of others
- Neither send or receive information that can be hurtful or harmful to others. This includes dealing with any information which is not appropriate for elementary school children.
- Neither receive nor distribute unauthorized copies of copyrighted software.

Signature of Student: _____

Date: _____

I, _____, being the parent/guardian of the above student, understand all the policies outlined in the "Knowlton Township Internet User Policy". I also understand that even though my son/daughter's school is providing supervision and guidance during the student's use of the Internet, it is ultimately my child's responsibility to avoid inappropriate materials. By signing here, I give my son/daughter permission to access the Internet through his/her school.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____