

Electronic Communications System

Educational Purpose

1. The network has been established for a limited educational purpose. The term “educational purpose” includes classroom activities, career development, and limited personal research.
2. The network has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The district has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material you access or post through the system. You are also expected to follow the rules set forth in the district student conduct regulations and the law in your use of the network.
3. You may not use the network for commercial purposes. This means you may not offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the network.
4. You may not use the network for political lobbying. However, you may use the system to communicate with elected representatives and to express your opinion on political issues.

Student Internet Access:

1. Elementary students will have access only under their teacher’s direct supervision using a classroom account. Elementary students may be provided with individual e-mail accounts under special circumstances, at the request of their teacher and with the approval of their parent.
2. Secondary students at the middle and high school may obtain an individual account with the approval of their parent and the school.
3. You and your parent must sign a Vale School District Internet Account Agreement prior to being granted an individual account on the network. This agreement must be renewed annually. Your parent can withdraw approval at any time.

Unacceptable Uses:

1. Personal Safety
 - a. You will not post personal contact information about yourself or other people. Personal contact information includes your address, telephone number, school address, work address, etc.
 - b. You will not agree to meet with someone you have met online without your parent’s approval. Your parent should accompany you to this meeting.

- c. You will promptly disclose to your teacher or other school employee any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.

2. Illegal Activities

- a. You will not attempt to gain access to portions of the network for which you are not authorized, or go beyond any point within the network for which you are authorized. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or accessing another person's file. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of browsing.
- b. You will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system performance or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
- c. You will not use the network to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of another, etc.

3. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

- a. You will not plagiarize works that you find on the network or Internet. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.
- b. You will respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when an individual inappropriately reproduces a work that is protected by a copyright. If a work contains language that specifies acceptable use of that work, you should follow the expressed requirements. If you are unsure whether or not you can use a work, you should request permission from the copyright owner.

4. Inappropriate Access to Material

- a. You will not use the network to access or distribute material that is profane or obscene (pornography), that advocates illegal or dangerous acts, or that advocates violence or discrimination towards other people (hate literature). A special exception may be made if the purpose is to conduct research and access is approved in writing by both the teacher and your parent.
- b. If you inadvertently access such information, you should immediately disclose the inadvertent access in a discrete manner to the supervising teacher. This will protect you against an allegation that you have intentionally violated the Acceptable Use Policy.

5. System Security

- a. You are responsible for the use of your individual account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no conditions should you provide your password to another person.
- b. You will immediately notify the system administrator if you have identified a possible security problem. You will not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
- c. You will avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses by following the standard virus protection procedures if you download software.

6. Inappropriate Language

- a. Restrictions against inappropriate language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on web pages.
- b. You will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
- c. You will not post information that, if acted upon, could cause damage or disruption.
- d. You will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
- e. You will not harass another person. Harassment is persistently acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
- f. You will not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.

7. Respect for Privacy

- a. You will not repost a message that was sent to you privately without permission of the person who sent you the message.
- b. You will not post private information about another person.

8. Respecting Resource Limits

- a. You will use the network only for educational, research, or professional/career development activities.
- b. You will remove all downloaded files from network computers and will not store files on district hard drives or servers.
- c. You will not download large files unless absolutely necessary. If necessary, you will download the file at a time when the system is not being heavily used and immediately remove the file from the network computer to their personal disk.
- d. You will not post chain letters.
- e. You will check your e-mail frequently, delete unwanted messages promptly, and stay within your e-mail quota.
- f. You will subscribe only to discussion group mail-lists that are relevant to your education or professional/career development. You may subscribe with the approval of your instructor and must un-subscribe at the end of the school year unless special arrangements are made.

Your Rights

1. Free Speech

Your right to free speech, as set forth in the district student conduct regulations, applies also to your communication on the Internet. The network is considered a limited forum, similar to a school newspaper, and therefore the district may restrict your speech for valid educational reasons. The district will not restrict your speech on the basis of a disagreement with the opinions you are expressing.

2. Search and Seizure
 - a. You should expect only limited privacy in the contents of your personal files on the network and records of your online activity. The situation is similar to the rights you have in the privacy of your locker.
 - b. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the network may lead to discovery that you have violated this policy, the district student conduct regulations, or the law.
 - c. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that you have violated this policy, the district student conduct regulations, or law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.
 - d. Your parents have the right at any time to request to see the contents of your email files.

3. Due Process
 - a. The district will cooperate fully with local state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through the network.
 - b. In the event there is a claim that you have violated this policy or the district student conduct regulations in your use of the network, you will be provided with notice and opportunity to be heard in the manner set forth in the district student conduct regulation.
 - c. Upon confirmation of a violation of this policy, consequence will be in accordance with the Acceptable Use Policy Violation Consequence sheet posted in each classroom with Internet access.
 - d. If the violation also involves a violation of other provisions of the district student conduct regulations it will be handled in a manner set forth in the district student conduct regulations. Additional restrictions may be placed on your use of your Internet account.

Limitations of Liability

The district makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the district network will be error-free or without defect. The district will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruption of service. The district is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The district will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the network. Your parents can be held financially responsible for any harm to the network as a result of intentional misuse.

Academic Freedom, Free Speech, and Selection of Material

1. Board policies on academic freedom and free speech will govern the use of the internet.
2. When using the internet for class activities, teachers will:
 - a. Select material that is appropriate in light of the age of the students and that is relevant to the course objectives.
 - b. Preview the materials and sites they require for students access to determine the appropriateness of the material contained on or accessed through the site.
 - c. Provide guidelines and lists of resources to assist their students in channeling their research activities effectively and properly.

- d. Assist their students in developing the skills to ascertain the truthfulness of information, distinguish fact from opinion, and engage in discussions about controversial issues while demonstrating tolerance and respect for those who hold divergent views.

Parental Notification and Responsibility

1. The district will notify parents about the network and the policies governing its use. Parents must sign an agreement to allow their student to have an individual account. Parents may request alternative activities for their child(ren) that do not require internet access.
2. Parents have the right at any time to investigate the contents of their child(ren)'s email files. Parents have the right to request the termination of their child(ren)'s individual account at any time.
3. The Acceptable Use Policy contains restrictions on accessing inappropriate material and student use will be supervised. However, there is a wide range of material available on the Internet, some of which may not be fitting with the particular values of the families of students. It is not possible for district to monitor and enforce a wide range of social values in student use of the Internet. Further, the ~~school~~ district recognizes that parents bear primary responsibility for transmitting their values to their children. The ~~school~~ district will encourage parents to specify to their child(ren) what material is and is not acceptable for their child(ren) to access through the network.
4. The district will provide students and parents with guidelines for student safety while using the Internet.
5. Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the network if they are accessing the system from home.