

Network and Internet Access /Computer Use Agreement Madison Consolidated Schools Madison, Indiana

Introduction

The Internet is a place for the exchange of information and ideas on a wide range of subjects. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Madison Consolidated Schools' (MCS) network is connected to the Internet. While MCS implements Internet filtering on all MCS sites, it is impossible to control all materials on a global network. As such, students may encounter materials that are obscene, abusive, or otherwise offensive. MCS firmly believes that information and the interaction available utilizing the network outweighs the possibility that students may access materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of MCS. Internet access is seen as a supplement to traditional sources of information, both print and nonprint, not as a replacement for them.

The purpose of this agreement is to identify standards that will assist in ensuring students benefit from their use of the MCS network and the Internet. By using the MCS Network and Internet, students and their guardians agree to the conditions and expectations outlined in this document.

Use of the MCS Network

The use of the MCS network is a privilege, not a right. Students who fail to comply with this agreement or violate MCS' disciplinary policies while using the MCS network may lose the privilege to access the MCS network. Students may also lose the privilege to use computer equipment provided by MCS or to bring their own computerized devices to school. Students may also be subject to other disciplinary action as appropriate based upon the nature and severity of the violation.

All students who request access to Internet resources through MCS, whether on or off of school property, are required to comply with the Network and Internet Access /Computer Use Agreement. This agreement is a condition of use. There is no opting out. This agreement will be incorporated into the Student and Employee Handbooks for all of our schools. Access to a handbook in print or electronic form at the time of registration or employment shall serve as your notice of this and other expectations whether or not you choose to read them.

Services

As part of the electronic information highway, Internet provides access to:

- Electronic mail communications with people all over the world.
- Information and news from government other public agencies, as well as the opportunity to correspond with scientists, authors, and politicians from around the world.
- Discussion forums on a variety of topics.
- Library catalogs and other materials from the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian, the Indiana State Library, and many universities.

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Acceptable Uses

Acceptable use of Internet resources is based on its original purpose, which is to provide a backbone network to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The operation of this worldwide computer network relies upon the proper conduct of its users. As a result, individuals must adhere to appropriate use guidelines.

MCS does not assume responsibility for individuals using the network through its facilities, but does acknowledge the responsibility to the Internet community to enforce accepted standards of network protocol and the obligation to recommend the termination of a user's network password and identification if misuse of the Internet resources is discovered.

Outside of school, families bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies and other possibly offensive media.

Use of the Internet by MCS students must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the educational objectives of the corporation. During classroom activities, it is the responsibility of the classroom teacher to supervise student Internet use in a manner that is consistent with the educational objectives of MCS and this agreement.

Unacceptable Uses

Use of the MCS network for any of the following purposes is prohibited:

- To knowingly access, upload, download, or distribute or attempt to knowingly access, upload, download or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials.
- To transmit or attempt to transmit obscene, abusive, or sexually explicit language, images, or materials.
- To annoy, harass, intimidate, or threaten, or attempt to annoy, harass, intimidate, or threaten any person or organization.
- To vandalize, damage, or disable, or attempt to vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization.
- To endanger or attempt to endanger the integrity of a computer on the MCS network or the data stored on the network, including the introduction of computer viruses or worms.
- To circumvent or attempt to circumvent MCS's Internet security measures and/or filters.
- To log on or to attempt to log on to the network using another person or group's name and password or to otherwise misuse a name or password.
- To falsely represent or attempt to falsely represent oneself in any Internet communication.
- To access or attempt to access another person's materials, information, or files without the implied or direct permission of that person.
- To transmit or attempt to transmit, without authorization, information that is false or defamatory or violates the privacy of another person.
- To interfere with or attempt to interfere with the lawful activities of any person, business, or organization in any manner.
- To violate or attempt to violate copyright, or otherwise use another person's intellectual property without his/her prior approval or proper citations.
- To transmit or attempt to transmit, without authorization, copyrighted materials or materials protected by trade

secret.

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- To transmit or attempt to transmit unsolicited emails (e.g., chain letter emails, spamming emails) or emails to any of MCS's distribution lists without permission of a school official.
- To download or attempt to download games, entertainment software, or copyrighted material without permission of a school official.
- To utilize peertopeer filesharing applications or attempt to utilize peertopeer filesharing applications without permission of a school official.
- To install or modify or attempt to install or modify any software on any MCS computer.
- To engage in commercial activity, product advertisement, or political lobbying.
- To violate or attempt to violate any local, state or federal statute, or any rule, regulation, or policy of MCS.

This is not an exhaustive list. Other similar behaviors are prohibited and may subject a student to the denial of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Privacy Limitations and Filtering

In accordance with its obligations under the Children's Internet Protection Act, MCS implements measures to block or filter, to the extent practicable, access to material that is obscene, pornographic and/or harmful to minors. Because of these monitoring obligations, students have no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their use of the MCS network or any computer equipment, software, access accounts, or other types of materials or facilities owned, controlled, or provided by MCS. Use of the MCS network constitutes consent to be monitored.

MCS reserves the right to view, copy, intercept, or block the transmission of any type of material or communication which does not conform to this agreement, and may use any such material or communication in the investigation of any violation of this agreement or in any disciplinary actions or proceedings against any student which might result from the student's violation of this agreement. MCS also reserves the right to make referral of certain types of violations to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Student Responsibilities

In accordance with its obligations under the Children's Internet Protection Act, MCS has undertaken efforts to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response and interactions with individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.

Students using the network and communicating with others on the Internet should exercise caution and remember the following:

- People in chat rooms on instant messaging may not be who they appear to be.
- Personal information, such as home telephone numbers, names, addresses, and photographs of students, should never be disclosed in a public forum (e.g., a chat room or on a profile).
- Students should not reveal their names or personal information to or establish relationships with strangers met through the Internet, unless a parent or school official has coordinated the communication.
- Internet security is tenuous at best. Students should refrain from sending or receiving any communications or material over the network that they would not want to be made public.
- Do not respond to unsolicited emails, advertisements, or other requests for your personal information.
- Protect your password by making it long and strong (combining upper and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols).

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If a student is uncomfortable or feels harassed, intimidated, or threatened by information that he or she receives over the Internet, he or she should tell a teacher, principal, or other school official immediately. Likewise, if a student is asked by another Internet user to stop emailing or contacting them, the student must stop all contact immediately.

If a student receives inappropriate materials or stumbles onto inappropriate materials on the Internet while doing legitimate research, the student is expected to notify the teacher, principal, or another school official.

Network etiquette expects that the student abide by the following guidelines. These guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Students are expected to be courteous and respectful. The use of vulgar, obscene, lewd, and otherwise inappropriate language is prohibited. Students shall not engage in cyberbullying.
- While the Internet itself has virtually boundless resources, the availability of local communication and storage resources is limited. Since list servers and mail servers can generate a significant amount of data to be stored, students are expected to “clean up” their files or mailboxes at appropriate times so as to not create a storage problem on the host server.
- All communications and information obtained via the network or the Internet should be assumed to be intellectual property subject to federal copyright law.
- Any attempt to compromise network security is prohibited. Any student identifying a possible breach in security must notify a system administrator or the corporation’s Director of eLearning.

Information and Service Disclaimers

MCS make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, about the information gained through the Internet, including its quality or accuracy. Use of information obtained through the Internet is at the student’s own risk and MCS cannot be held responsible for any material a student mistakenly or intentionally accesses or transmits via the MCS network.

MCS makes no warranties about the quality of the services provided and is not responsible for any claims, losses (including, but not limited to, the loss of data), damages, costs, or other obligations arising from a student's use of the MCS network or any computer equipment or software owned, controlled, or provided by MCS.

It is the policy of MCS that the cost of any materials to a student utilizing the Internet is the responsibility of the student, or in the case of a student under the age of 18, the person who authorizes a network account. This authorization extends to any financial obligation that may be incurred when utilizing the network. Under no circumstances will MCS be liable for any unauthorized purchases or other financial obligations resulting from MCS provided access to the Internet. Receipt of a handbook containing the Network and Internet Access/Computer Use Agreement establishes a legal obligation on the part of the recipient to abide by the agreement in all its terms and conditions regardless of whether they choose to read the agreement in its entirety.

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