

Tallmadge City Schools

STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET USE AND SAFETY POLICY

(Please retain this page for future reference)

1. Acceptable Uses; Limitations

Computer networks shall be used solely for academic purposes or other purposes, which support the educational mission of the Tallmadge City School District. Computer networks may NOT be used for illegal activities, transmitting or receiving sexually-oriented materials, commercial activity, political activity, personal use, entertainment, accessing unauthorized computers, promoting any illegal activity, or promoting the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

The Board of Education reserves the right to determine which constitutes acceptable use and to limit computer access to such uses. While the Board has implemented technology protection measures which block/filter access to inappropriate content, we may not be able to technologically limit access to only educational services. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials, access to the Internet serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world. Students and staff members are responsible for good behavior on computers, the network and the Internet, just as they are in all school environments.

2. Security and Safety

Despite efforts to filter content, the Internet and other computer networks may make available information and images, which are obscene, offensive, false, fraudulent, or illegal. Other persons using a computer network may also be attempting to exploit children and other users.

For these reasons, users:

- should not reveal real names, addresses, phone numbers, or other personally identifiable information of themselves or others without the express permission of a supervising teacher.
- should not participate in any real-time communications (such as "chat rooms," browser-based instant messaging) without the express permission and direct participation of a supervising teacher.
- should not agree to meet any person contacted through a computer network without parental permission.
- shall not login to the network using another person's account and password, or misrepresent his/her identity in any way.
- shall inform his/her teacher of any sexually oriented messages or unsolicited requests for personal information about a student
- should exit immediately from any site containing sexually explicit material or other material deemed inappropriate under this policy

Users shall protect their passwords and account numbers and may not allow other persons to use their passwords and/or account logins.

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3. **Responsibilities of Users**

It shall be the responsibility of the user:

- ❑ to use the network only for appropriate purposes
- ❑ to notify a teacher or administrator of computer or network malfunctions
- ❑ to reimburse the Board for any damage or loss incurred as a result of inappropriate use
- ❑ to be a courteous computer user by avoiding the use of language which is obscene, vulgar, abusive, or disrespectful
- ❑ to avoid any use or practice which interferes with the use of the network by others
- ❑ to respect the privacy of other computer users to the maximum extent possible

4. **General Prohibitions**

- ❑ may not violate any copyright laws or engage in the unauthorized copying of files, music, movies, programs, or other software
- ❑ may not engage in any form of plagiarism
- ❑ may not "mass e-mail" school system users for non-educational purposes
- ❑ may not write, delete or modify files in any directory other than their own without permission of the supervising teacher including system files
- ❑ may not store executable files (such as games, music, movies or other programs) or any copyrighted files on the network in any form or place
- ❑ may not engage in any interference/sabotage/vandalism of others' computers or software (such as "hacking," "spamming," or virus copying)
- ❑ may not use non-school provided chat programs (i.e., aim, yahoo, msn, etc)
- ❑ may not connect any "rogue" network device or computer (wired or wireless) to the network

5. **Loss of Privileges**

Computer network access is a privilege and not a right. Any person who engages in an inappropriate use or violates any other provision of this policy may have his/her access privileges suspended or revoked without notice. Violations of this policy may also be punishable under the Student Discipline Policy.

6. **Right of Access**

The Board will make every effort to respect the privacy of students using computer networks for e-mail communications and other purposes. However, the Board reserves the right to examine any such communications or other computer-based information when reasonably necessary to investigate a suspected violation of school rules or this policy, or where necessary to ensure the security and integrity of the computer network. The Board also reserves the right to limit the time of access and to establish priorities among competing acceptable uses.

7. **Disclaimer of Liability**

The Board shall not be responsible for any material encountered on a computer network which may be deemed objectionable to a student or his/her parents, for any inaccurate information disseminated over the network, for any hostile or injurious actions of third parties encountered through a computer network, for any charges incurred by the user of a computer network without prior permission, or for any damage or loss incurred by a user or any subsequent party by the use of files or software obtained over a computer network. Due to the nature of electronic communications, it is also impossible for the Tallmadge City School District to guarantee the confidentiality of e-mail sent and received over any computer network.

Tallmadge City Schools

STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET USE AND SAFETY AGREEMENT

To access the computer network, e-mail and/or the Internet at school, students under the age of eighteen (18) must obtain parent permission and must sign and return this form. Students eighteen (18) and over may sign their own forms.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The Board's Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

The Board has implemented technology protection measures which block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication and/or services on the Internet which the Board of Education has not authorized for educational purposes and/or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Students accessing the Internet through the school's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet. The Board has the right to monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board's computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Please complete the following information:

Student User's Full Name (please print): _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian

I understand that student access to the Internet is designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minor. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet. I will not hold the Board (or any of its employees, administrators or officers) responsible for materials my child may acquire or come in contact with while on the Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet - i.e., setting and conveying standards for my daughter/son to follow when selecting, sharing and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations.

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To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a district web site might vest in my child upon creation, I agree to assign those rights to the Board. In the event that a parent/guardian desires to refuse permission for photographs, video, and student work to be displayed on a school web site or other form of communication, the TALLMADGE CITY SCHOOLS RELEASE NOTIFICATION form provides a right of refusal of permission for these purposes.

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY, and have discussed them with my child.

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student

I have read and agree to abide by the STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY. I understand that any violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Policy is inappropriate and may constitute a criminal offense. As a user of the Board's computers/network and the Internet, I agree to communicate over the Internet and the Network in an appropriate manner, honoring all relevant laws, restrictions and guidelines.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teachers and building principals are responsible for determining what is unauthorized or in appropriate use. The principal may deny, revoke or suspend access to the computer network and Internet to individuals who violate the Board's STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY, and take such other disciplinary action as is appropriate pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.

OR

(Complete the section below only if refusing to grant permission for the student to access the computer network and Internet)

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION

I am a parent or guardian of _____. I do not grant permission for this student to have access to the computer network or Internet on the school's computers.

I understand that the above student will not have access to the resources on the computer network or Internet and may be required to find other available resources for school assignments.

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

(Please return this page to the currently attended School Building.)