



Guidelines for Internet and Electronic Communications for Students

The Internet has become a global and ubiquitous reality. It offers access to a wealth of knowledge which can be extremely beneficial to students. The Internet can also be dangerous. Because the Internet offers the opportunity for anonymity, there is the possibility for cyber bullying and other harmful acts and for sexual predators to have access to minors.

It is important for students to maintain appropriate boundaries with respect to other students and the adults in the school. This is for the protection of both students and adults. The Internet and other electronic communications pose unique challenges in this regard.

Computer use, including use of non-school equipment and use outside of the school can have harmful effects on students and the school community. Any person who makes inappropriate use of the Internet, cell phones, or other means of electronic communications that is harmful to the good order and discipline of the school, its religious mission or its educational objectives, is subject to disciplinary action.

This document establishes for the appropriate use of the Internet, electronic mail, and telephone for students. Acceptable protocol includes the following:

- If a student must correspond with school personnel by email, only school matters or matters appropriate to be discussed in school should be communicated.
- Students should remember to write as if others are certain to read what is written. E-mail communication can easily be shared with others for whom the communication was not intended.

Unacceptable activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Bullying or harassing another student, parent, teacher, administrator, school employee or other member of the school community.
- Posting statements, pictures, or other materials that are false, derogatory, defamatory, degrading, malicious, disrespectful, or threatening to another student, parent, teacher, administrator, school employee or other member of the school community.
- Using school seal, logo or motto without written permission of the principal.
- Creating a website, webpage, account, blog or the like designed to look like it was created by or belongs to another student, a teacher, administrator, school employee or other member of the school community without the express written consent of that individual.
- Creating a website or webpage designed to look like an official school posting.

By signing the Family Agreement Form, you agree that you have read, understood, and will abide by the Guidelines for Internet and Electronic Communications for Students. You also understand the disciplinary measures connected with violations of this policy.

*A signed copy of the Family Policies Agreement form will be kept on file for each student.