Student Acceptable Use Procedures

Technology is integral to the teaching and learning mission of the Midlothian ISD. Midlothian ISD fosters and supports innovations in technology while simultaneously integrating innovation into the academic disciplines. Conceptualizing and implementing innovative educational technologies for the purpose of developing insights into the nature of learning, improving learning outcomes and providing greater accessibility to educational services by students and faculty is a priority. The virtual experiences manifested by these technologies should integrate seamlessly into the physical space of the District. In support of this mission, MISD sets forth these acceptable use procedures to optimize network resources and safeguard our staff and students.

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, Midlothian ISD educates staff and students regarding appropriate online behavior to ensure Internet safety, including the use of email, apps (applications), and has deployed internet filtering technology and protection measures to restrict access to inappropriate content such as those that are illegal, harmful, or contain potentially offensive information. ***While every effort is made to provide the most secure learning environment, it is not possible to absolutely prevent access (accidental or otherwise) to inappropriate content. It is each student's responsibility to follow the guidelines for appropriate and acceptable use. Parents/Guardians are responsible for the online activities and behavior of their children while away from school***.

In the case of unforeseeable events that affect normal school operation, the district may utilize different technologies to provide at-home learning than is typically allowed during standard, campus-based instruction.

Responsible Use/Digital Citizenship

- Students must only open, view, modify, and delete their own computer files.
- Internet use at school must be directly related to school assignments and projects.
- Students will be assigned individual email and network accounts and must use only those accounts and passwords that they have been granted permission by the district to use. All account activity should be for educational purposes only.
- Students must immediately report threatening messages or discomforting Internet files/sites to a teacher.
- Students must at all times use the district's electronic communications system, including email, wireless network access, and resources to communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.
- Students are responsible at all times for their use of the district's electronic communications system and must assume personal responsibility to behave ethically and responsibly, even when technology provides them freedom to do otherwise.

SPECIAL NOTE: CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying is defined as the use of any Internet-connected device for the purpose of bullying, harassing, or intimidating another student. This includes, but may not be limited to: Sending abusive text messages to cell phones, computers, or Internet-connected game consoles.

- Posting abusive comments on social networking sites.
- Creating a social networking profile or web page that masquerades as the victim's profile or personal site and using it to embarrass him or her.

- Making it appear that the victim is posting malicious comments about friends to isolate him or her from friends.
- Posting the victim's personally identifiable information on a site to put them at greater risk of contact by predators.
- Sending abusive comments while playing interactive games.
- Recording and distributing media with the intent to manipulate or embarrass others.

Inappropriate Uses

- Posting of videos or photos without permission of the individual or group.
- Use of technology resources such as chat rooms, social sites, and games in a manner that causes disruption to the educational program.
- Use related to commercial activities or for commercial gain.
- Students will recognize and report any warning signs of online predators. Students will not participate in inappropriate dialogue with others online.
- Creating a social networking site or web page that masquerades as the victim's personal site and using it to embarrass him or her.
- Sending or posting messages and/or content that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another's reputation, illegal, or intended to bully.
- Downloading unauthorized applications or software or gaining unauthorized access to restricted information or resources.
- Accessing or exploring online locations or materials that do not support the curriculum and/or are inappropriate for school assignments, such as but not limited to pornographic sites.
- Vandalizing and/or tampering with equipment, programs, files, software, system performance, or other components of the network. Use or possession of hacking software is strictly prohibited.
- Using another user's account, password, or student badge or allowing another user to access your account, password, ID, or badge.
- Engaging in sexual harassment or using objectionable language in public or private messages, e.g., racist, terroristic, abusive, sexually explicit, threatening, demeaning, stalking, or slanderous.

Consequences

- Appropriate disciplinary or legal action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws including monetary damages.
- Suspension of access to the district's electronic communications system.
- Revocation of the district's electronic communications system account(s); and/or termination of system user account: The district may deny, revoke, or suspend specific user's access to the district's system with or without cause or notice for lack of use, violation of policy or regulations regarding acceptable network use, or as a result of disciplinary actions against the user.
- Possible criminal action.

I understand that my use of the Midlothian ISD electronic communication system is not private and that the Midlothian ISD will monitor activity on the computer system. I have read the district's Acceptable Use Procedures and agree to abide by their provisions. I understand that violation of these provisions may result in suspension or revocation of system access as well as appropriate disciplinary action.

I understand that my student's use of the Midlothian ISD electronic communication system is not private and that the district will monitor activity on the computer system. I have read the district's Acceptable Use Procedures and agree to abide by their provisions. I understand that violation of these provisions may result in suspension or revocation of system access as well as appropriate disciplinary action.