

At Rochester Catholic Schools (RCS), we believe in integrating technology into the educational environment to enhance learning opportunities for our students while upholding the values and principles of our Catholic faith. This Technology Use Policy outlines the guidelines and expectations for the responsible and ethical use of technology by students, staff, and faculty members within the school premises. By adhering to this policy, we aim to create a safe and conducive environment that fosters academic growth, personal development, and the formation of virtuous individuals.

#### Acceptable Use of Technology:

1. **Educational Purpose:** All technology provided by the school, including computers, tablets, smartphones, and internet access, should be used for educational purposes in alignment with the curriculum and instructional goals established by the school.
2. **Respectful and Ethical Conduct:** Users must demonstrate respectful and ethical behavior when using technology, adhering to the principles of the Catholic faith. This includes but is not limited to refraining from engaging in cyberbullying, harassment, plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of inappropriate behavior.
3. **Privacy and Security:** Users are responsible for protecting their personal information and respecting the privacy of others. Sharing personal information, passwords, or unauthorized access to others' accounts is strictly prohibited. Users should also report any security vulnerabilities or incidents to the appropriate school authority.
4. **Digital Citizenship:** Users are expected to practice responsible digital citizenship. This involves exhibiting appropriate online behavior, respecting intellectual property rights, engaging in respectful online communication, and understanding the consequences of their actions in the digital world.
5. **Respect for Copyright:** Users must respect copyright laws and intellectual property rights. Unauthorized distribution, copying, or downloading of copyrighted materials is strictly prohibited unless explicitly permitted under fair use or with proper authorization.
6. **Internet Safety:** Users must adhere to safe Internet practices, including avoiding accessing or sharing inappropriate content, engaging in illegal activities, or participating in online chats or forums that may compromise their safety or the safety of others.
7. **Responsible Use of Social Media:** Users are expected to exercise caution and responsibility when using social media platforms, ensuring that their activities reflect positively on themselves, their peers, and the school community. Posting or sharing inappropriate or offensive content is strictly prohibited.
8. **Resource Conservation:** Users should use technology resources responsibly and efficiently. This includes closing unused applications, logging out when finished, and not wasting electricity or other resources.
9. **Reporting Inappropriate Content:** Users should report any instances of inappropriate content, messages, or online behavior to a teacher, administrator, or other designated authority immediately.

10. Monitoring and Filtering: The school reserves the right to monitor and filter technology use within its network to ensure compliance with this policy and to maintain a safe and secure learning environment.

Consequences of Policy Violation:

Violation of this Technology Use Policy may result in disciplinary action, which may include but is not limited to, loss of technology privileges, academic penalties, counseling, parental involvement, or legal consequences depending on the severity and frequency of the offense. The school administration reserves the right to determine the appropriate values on a case-by-case basis.

Conclusion:

By following this Technology Use Policy, we aim to foster a positive and responsible technological environment that supports our educational mission and reflects the Catholic values and principles that guide our school community. It is our shared responsibility to use technology to promote learning, respect, and the well-being of all individuals within our community.