

Thompson Falls School District

STUDENTS

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District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks

General

The District makes Internet access and interconnected computer systems available to District students and faculty. The District provides electronic networks, including access to the Internet, as part its instructional program and to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The District expects all students to take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access, including good behavior on-line. The District may withdraw student access to its network and to the Internet when any misuse occurs. District teachers and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise use of network and Internet access; however, student cooperation is vital in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

Curriculum

Use of District electronic networks will be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the District, as well as with varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of students, and will comply with selection criteria for instructional materials and library materials. Staff members may use the Internet throughout the curriculum, consistent with the District's educational goals.

Internet Safety

Pursuant to the Children's Internet Protection Act, the District will implement measures to prevent:

- access over its computer networks, or the transmission of, inappropriate material through the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
- unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; or
- unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal information of students

The District shall use technology protection measures to protect against adults and students using District computers with Internet access from visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to use by students, harmful to students. Subject to the approval of the Superintendent or designee, an administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the technology projection measure during use by an adult to enable access for bone fide research or other lawful purpose.

The District's provision of educational services shall include educating students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

The District will provide reasonable supervision of students using its access to the Internet and will monitor the online activities of students.

Acceptable Uses

1. Educational Purposes Only. All use of the District's electronic network must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and in furtherance of the District's stated educational goals; or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any materials that are stored, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic network or District computers. The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store, at any time and without prior notice, any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage.
2. Unacceptable Uses. Misuse of the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (a) use of the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications for other than educational purposes;
 - (b) gaining intentional access or maintaining access to materials which are obscene, pornographic, or whose dominant appeal is sexual arousal;
 - (c) using the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
 - (d) accessing "chat lines" unless authorized by the instructor for a class activity directly supervised by a staff member;
 - (e) using abusive or profane language in private messages through the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications; or using the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
 - (f) posting anonymous messages through the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
 - (g) using encryption software;
 - (h) vandalizing data of another user;
 - (i) obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
 - (j) gaining unauthorized access to resources or files;

- (k) identifying oneself with another person's name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
- (l) using the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications for financial or commercial gain without District permission; or
- (m) introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the network or the District's access to the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, or other forms of direct electronic communications.

Warranties/Indemnification

The District makes no warranties of any kind, express or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this policy. The District is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable when using the network or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet. The District will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet. Any user is fully responsible to the District and will indemnify and hold the District, its trustees, administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any and all loss, costs, claims, or damages resulting from such user's access to its computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchase of goods or services by a user. The District expects a user or, if a user is a minor, a user's parents or legal guardian to cooperate with the District in the event of its initiating an investigation of a user's use of access to its computer network and the Internet.

Violations

If a student violates this policy, the District will deny the student access or will withdraw access and may subject the student to additional disciplinary action. An administrator or building principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated this policy and any related rules or regulations and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time, with that decision being final.

Legal References: § 20-5-201, MCA Duties and Sanctions
 20 USC § 9134 Children's Internet Protection Act
 47 CFR 54.520 Children's Internet Protection Act Certifications

Policy History:

Adopted on: 2-1-2021

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Revised on: