Tarkington Independent School District

Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Please return page 3 of this agreement, signed by the student and parent, to your teacher.

The Tarkington Independent School District provides many technology resources for student use. This agreement defines appropriate use and prohibited activities when using these technology resources. Every student is expected to follow all of the standards outlined below, as well as those provided verbally by the staff, and to always display excellent citizenship and ethical behavior. In accepting this agreement, students acknowledge the following rules and conditions:

Government Laws: I will use computers in conformity with the laws of the United States of America and the State of Texas. Violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

Criminal Acts: These include, but are not limited to, "hacking" or attempting to access computer systems without authorization, harassing email, cyberbullying, cyber stalking, child pornography, vandalism, and/or unauthorized tampering with computer systems.

Libel Laws: Publicly defaming people through published material on the internet, email, etc.

Copyright Violations: Copying, selling, or distributing copyrighted material without the express written permission of the author or publisher (users should presume that all content available on the Internet is copyright protected). Plagiarizing (using someone else's words or ideas as your own) is prohibited.

NETIQUETTE and APPROPRIATE USE GUIDELINES:

Network Resources: Use of the school network is a privilege, not a right, that can be terminated if it is misused. When using the school's computer resources, the student is personally responsible for his or her activities. Despite our best efforts and the limitations of filtering technology, your child may come across adult content and things that you find objectionable.

Copying/Downloading: Students are *not* permitted to download or install any software, shareware, or freeware onto the school's computers. Students are not allowed to copy other people's work or access other people's files.

Privacy: The school district owns the network storage spaces. Any storage area of the school may be evaluated by the Director of Technology, or designee, in order to protect system integrity and ensure that students are using the system properly.

Inappropriate Materials or Language: Discriminatory, harassing, vulgar, pornographic, or inappropriate materials are not permitted to be transmitted, retrieved, or stored by students. If students come across such material by chance, they should inform their teacher right away. It is not permissible to utilize district internet systems for personal gain, political lobbying, or any other purpose that is illegal, against district policy, or against the district's best interests.

STUDENT UNDERSTANDING:

• I understand that passwords are confidential. I will not allow anyone to use my account name or password, nor will I attempt to use someone else's. I realize that the district owns my school network and email accounts and that they are not private. At any time, Tarkington ISD has the right to access my information.

• I will not bring any hard drives, CDs, DVDs, flash drives, or other storage media to the school unless I have specific permission to do so. I will have the supervising teacher or the district technology department personnel scan the media for viruses and check for appropriate content before using it on school equipment.

• I will be polite and use appropriate language in my email messages, multi-user role-playing and/or virtual learning environments, online postings, and other digital communications with others. I will not use profanity, vulgarity, or any other language that school administration deems improper.

• I will be responsible when using email and other forms of communication (such as blogs, wikis, podcasting, chat, instant messaging, discussion forums, virtual learning environments, and so on). At school or at home, I will not send or post hate or harassing mail, pornography, make discriminatory or derogatory remarks about others, or engage in bullying, harassment, or other antisocial behaviors using computers, handheld computers, digital audio players, cell phones, personal digital devices, or the Internet.

• In all of my online actions, I am aware that I am representing the school system. I realize that my actions on social networking sites should not reflect poorly on my classmates, teachers, or the district. I understand that I will be held responsible for how I represent myself and my school, department, or district on the Internet.

• I understand that masquerading, spoofing, or pretending to be someone else is forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, sending out email, creating accounts, or posting messages or other online content (e.g., text, images, audio, or video) in someone else's name.

• I shall make responsible use of technological resources. I will not use any of Tarkington ISD's computer resources to retrieve, save, or display hate-based, offensive, or sexually explicit content. It is my responsibility to avoid pursuing material that could be deemed offensive. I understand that if I come across items that are inappropriately used by accident, I must immediately alert an adult.

• I will use technology resources productively and responsibly for school-related purposes. I will avoid using any technology resource in a way that would disrupt the activities of other users.

• I will not try to bypass or circumvent security settings or Internet filters, or to interfere with the network's operation by installing illicit software, web-based services, or anything else that has not been permitted by the Tarkington ISD Administrators or Technology Department.

• I understand that vandalism is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, modifying or destroying equipment, programs, files, or settings on any computer or other technology resource.

• I will respect the intellectual property of other users and information providers. I will obey the copyright guidelines. I will not plagiarize or use other people's work without proper citation and permission.

• Without the owner's consent, I will not use or access files, software, or other resources owned by others. I will only use the school network directories that have been designated for my use or for the purpose that my teacher has specified.

• When publishing coursework online, I will adhere to all guidelines established by the district and/or my teachers (e.g., on a website, blog, wiki, discussion board, podcast, or video server).

• I acknowledge that the Internet is a source of both genuine and false information and that the school is not responsible for information gathered from the Internet that is inaccurate. I commit to following all school-provided Internet safety standards and to completing any Internet safety-related responsibilities.

• I understand that district administrators will deem what conduct is inappropriate use if such conduct is not specified in this agreement.

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ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE BEFORE THE USE OF ANY TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT (PERSONAL OR DISTRICT-OWNED) IS ALLOWED AT TARKINGTON ISD.

STUDENT AGREEMENT:

I understand and agree to follow the netiquette and appropriate use guidelines contained in the Technology Acceptable Use Policy as a user of the school's technology resources.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS AGREEMENT: If I violate this policy, I realize that the penalties may include the suspension or loss of computer privileges, data, and files, disciplinary action, and/or referral to police enforcement.

Student's Name (print):_____

Student's Email Address:_____

Student's Signature:_____Date:_____

PARENT AGREEMENT:

I have read the Network and Internet Use Policy and the Technology Acceptable Use Policy as the parent or guardian of this student. I understand the terms and conditions for using Tarkington ISD's network and Internet resources, that access to technology resources is provided for the purpose of promoting educational excellence in accordance with the district's academic goals, and that student use for any other purpose is inappropriate. I understand that the district will not be able to block access to all controversial information, and I will not hold the school liable for materials obtained through the school network. I understand that my child is responsible for all transactions made under his or her user ID or account, that any violation of that policy will be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct, and that, in addition to any other disciplinary action, my child may be denied access to the district's technology resources.

By signing this form, I agree to allow my child to utilize the TISD Network and have access to the Internet. I also understand and consent to the school publishing examples of my student's projects in district media or sharing photographs/video of my child participating in school-related events with local media outlets.

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate.

I hereby give my child permission to utilize the Tarkington Independent School District's technology resources.

Parent/Guardian's Name:
(print)_____

Parent/Guardian's Email Address:

_____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this page to your child's school.