

Instruction

Acceptable Use of the Computer Network

The Woodstock Academy Board of Trustees believes in the educational value of communications, the Internet, and electronic information services, and recognizes their potential to support its educational program, the curriculum and student learning.

Resource sharing, communications, and innovation capabilities for both students and teachers have been increased with access to telecommunications and to the Internet. The Academy will make every effort to protect students and teachers from any misuses or abuses as a result of experience with an electronic information service. It is therefore imperative that members of the school community conduct themselves in a responsible, decent, ethical, and polite manner while using any network. Further, they must abide by all local, state, and federal laws.

Guidelines for General Use

It is important to recognize that with increased access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of controversial material that may not be considered of educational value in the context of the school setting. Further, The Academy recognizes the importance of each individual's judgment regarding appropriate conduct in maintaining a quality resource system. While this policy does not attempt to articulate all required or proscribed behavior, it does seek to assist in such judgment by providing the following guidelines.

1. All use of the Internet, electronic services or any telecommunications network must be in support of educational objectives or research.
2. Any electronic mail accounts shall be used only by the authorized owner of the account. Account owners are ultimately responsible for all activity under their account.
3. All communications and information accessible via a network should be assumed to be private.
4. Any use of The Academy's computing resources or networks for illegal or inappropriate purposes, accessing materials that are objectionable in a school environment, or supporting such activities, is prohibited. Language that is deemed to be vulgar is also prohibited. Illegal activities shall be defined as a violation of the intended use of the service or network. Inappropriate use shall be defined as a violation of the intended use of the service or network. Objectionable is defined as materials that are identified as such by the rules and policies of the Board of Trustees.
5. Any use of telecommunication opportunities for commercial purposes, financial gain, product advertisement, politicking, or in an attempt to disrupt the use of the services by others, is prohibited.
6. The Board of Trustees has no control of the information on the Internet. Other sites accessible via the Internet may contain material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people.
7. Violations of the provisions stated in this policy may result in suspension or revocation of access privileges to the Internet, electronic services, or district networks.
8. The Head of School or their designee shall have the responsibility for implementing this policy, establishing procedures, and supervising access privileges.

Use of electronic services is considered to be a privilege which can be modified at any time at the discretion of the Associate Head of School. Any parent or student who wishes to appeal any decision relative to the Acceptable Use Policy should contact the Associate Head of School.

Privacy/Monitoring Notification

All computer communication systems received or contained on the network are the property of The Woodstock Academy and are to be used only for school-related purposes. All members of the school user's community have the right to privacy in their private electronic communications. To ensure proper use of the computer network and of the Internet, private correspondence and/or files may be accessed at any time. Prior to a search, the user shall be notified and given an opportunity to be present during the search. In the event there is a reasonable suspicion that a user is using the network in violation of the guidelines stated in this policy, The Head of School and/or their designee may gain access to private correspondence or files without prior notice. There also may be a need to access private files as part of regular system maintenance. An attempt will be made to notify users of this in advance whenever possible. It is important that users recognize the fundamental difference between public and private forms of communication.

Consequences

Users of the computer network of The Woodstock Academy shall be responsible for damages to the equipment, system and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts. Failure to follow the procedures and prohibitions listed above may result in the loss of the right to gain access to The Woodstock Academy network and/or computers. Other appropriate disciplinary procedures may take place as needed. Illegal use of the computer network of The Woodstock Academy, intentional deletion or damage of files of data belonging to others, and copyright violations or theft of services will be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution. Refer to the disciplinary matrix in The Woodstock Academy's Handbook.

Limitation of Liability

The Woodstock Academy makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Board will not be responsible for any problems suffered while on the Internet. These problems include, but are not limited to, loss of data as a result of delays or otherwise, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the Internet or users, which include errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained through the Internet is at the user's own risk. The Board will not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet.

In no event shall The Woodstock Academy be liable to any user for any damages, whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising out of the use of the Internet, or accuracy or correctness of databases or information contained therein, or related, directly or indirectly, to any failure or delay of the school district in providing access to the Internet.

Nothing in this policy should be interpreted to constitute an expressed or implied contract on the part of The Woodstock Academy to continue to provide Internet or other computer services. The Board reserves the right to discontinue this service at any time with or without notice.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 51a-182b Harassment in the first degree: Class D Felony (as amended by PA 95-143)
 20 U.S.C. Section 6777, No Child Left Behind Act
 20 U.S.C. 254 Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000
 47 U.S.C. Children's Online Protection Act of 1998

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The Woodstock Academy
Woodstock, Connecticut