PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOLS

NETWORK/INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Pinellas County Schools use computers to support learning and to enhance instruction. Computer networks in the schools allow students and staff to interact with many computers. The Internet, a network of networks, allows people to interact with hundreds of thousands of networks and computers. Internet access is now available to designated students in Pinellas County Schools. This resource offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to students that will allow them to communicate with people from around the world, visit electronic libraries, perform research on a variety of subjects, and participate in special projects with students from all points on the globe. The goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. This technology will benefit all students as they prepare for work in a global marketplace.

The student is expected to follow all guidelines stated below, as well as those given orally by the staff, and to demonstrate ethical behavior that is of the highest order in using the network facilities at the school.

1. Acceptable Use

The purpose of the Internet is to facilitate communications in support of research and education by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of the student's account must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of Pinellas County Schools. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement is also prohibited. It is prohibited to download or install unauthorized applications or alter the basic configuration of the computer. It is also prohibited to execute any unauthorized applications from a third-party device (hard drives, USB drives, etc.).

2. Privileges

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The districtwide network system administrator is the supervisor of distributive and user support systems. In addition, the principal will appoint a staff member to act as the school's network system administrator. Students may not allow others to use their account name or their password. Violation of this rule could jeopardize access to the Internet and students who violate this rule will immediately lose all network and computer access. The school's network system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the school's network system administrators may close or restrict an account at any time as required. The administration and staff of the district or the school may also request the districtwide network system administrator or the school's network system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user access.

3. Network Etiquette

Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to the following:

a. Do not reveal personal address, phone numbers, or other personal information of yourself or classmates.
b. Be polite. Do not get abusive in messages to others.
c. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
d. Do not engage in activities that are prohibited under state or federal law.
e. Do not assume that electronic mail is private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
f. Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
g. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.

4. Services

a. Pinellas County Schools will not be responsible for any charges related to fee for service access to on-line resources services incurred by account holders without prior written approval being received from the district.
b. Pinellas County Schools makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Pinellas County Schools will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or errors or omissions including any and all viruses. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the student's own risk. Pinellas County Schools specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

5. Security
Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If the student can identify a security problem, the student must notify the school's network system administrator or the Pinellas County Schools districtwide network system administrator and should not demonstrate the problem to other users. Attempts to logon to the Internet as a network system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.

6. Vandalism
Vandalism will result in cancellation of Internet privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to Pinellas County Schools. This includes, but is not limited to the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

STUDENT

I understand and will abide by the Network and Internet Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations stated is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and school disciplinary and appropriate legal action may be taken.

Student Name _____ School _____
(please print)

Student Signature_____ Date_____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Network and Internet Use Agreement. I understand that my child's access is designed for educational purposes. I recognize it is impossible for Pinellas County Schools to restrict access to all controversial or offensive materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for the supervision, if any, when my child's use is not in a school setting. I have read and understand the information in this agreement and hereby give my permission for my child to use the Internet pursuant to the terms of this agreement.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print) _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature_____ Date_____