

General Guidelines

Student Use of Technology & Related Tools Philomath School District 17J

The following paragraphs describe the general guidelines for students who wish to use technology and related tools within the Philomath School District. All students under the age of 18 must read, obtain parental permission, sign, and return this form to the School Office prior to gaining access to E-mail and Internet services. Students 18 years of age and older may sign their own form.

Access to E-mail and Internet services will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, electronic bulletin boards, and web sites. Such access may potentially further teacher educational goals and objectives, and enhance the student's learning process. Further, students will be able to exchange messages with other Internet users from around the world.

Families are hereby advised that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. Nevertheless, the benefits of student access to the Internet, in the form of information resources, and opportunities for collaboration with others on an international scale, exceed any disadvantages. Therefore, parents and guardians of minors are ultimately responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. It is to this end that the Philomath School District supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access to the Internet.

District Internet and E-mail Rules

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks, just as they are in the classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network servers is granted to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege — not a right. Access entails individual responsibility.

Individual Users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. Users are expected to comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communication of individuals utilizing the network.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and to ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect personal files stored on district servers to always be private.

Outside the school environment, families are responsible for the manner in which information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radios, and other media are used. However, during school hours, teachers often assume parental responsibilities. Consequently, teachers are responsible for guiding students to material that is relevant and conducive to class instruction.

The Following Are Not Permitted:

- Using obscene language, harassment, insults, and/or discrimination against others.
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks, e.g., via viruses and vandalism.
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another's password, providing a password, or trespassing in another's folders, work, or files.
- Intentionally wasting resources.
- Reposting personal communications without the author's prior permission.
- Using the network for financial gain or for any commercial or illegal activity.
- Unauthorized downloading or e-mailing of non-educational related files (graphic or textual, including games).
- Subscribing to any databases, ListServers, or other sources without the prior permission of the teacher or supervisor.
- Using unsupervised chat rooms

Violations may result in a loss of access to the Internet and e-mail, as well as other disciplinary or legal action.