

**ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY  
FOR TECHNOLOGY**  
*Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*

## **PURPOSE**

Technology is a valuable educational vehicle. Our schools are committed to teach its students, faculty, administrators, staff, and school community to work and to learn effectively with technology and to ensure responsible use of technology. The policy outlined below applies to all technology use including, but not limited to Internet use. *The Acceptable Use Policy for Technology* applies to all students, faculty, administrators, staff, volunteers or community members allowed access to school technology resources.

## **GOAL**

The school's goal is to prepare its members for life in an electronic, global community. To this end, the school will:

- provide a variety of technology based tools
- teach technology skills
- integrate technology with curriculum
- encourage critical thinking and problem solving skills
- facilitate evaluation and synthesis of information
- encourage ethical practices

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF USER**

Our schools will make every effort to provide a safe environment for learning with technology including Internet safeguards. The students, faculty, administrators, staff, and school community are granted the privilege of using the computer hardware and software, peripherals, and electronic communication tools including the Internet. With this privilege comes the responsibility to use the equipment correctly, respect the name and intellectual property of others, and follow the policies outlined below.

## **TECHNOLOGY USE GUIDELINES**

- **Educational Purpose/ Appropriate Use:** All technology use and Internet access at schools for all faculty, staff and students is provided solely for educational purposes. Educational sites and teacher created assignments are to be used to enhance student learning. Students must not access entertainment sites, for example social networking sites or gaming sites, except for educational purposes under teacher supervision. Expressed permission to use the Internet and hardware/software in any area of the school must always be obtained.
- **Copyright/Intellectual Property:** All sources obtained for teacher and student work should be properly cited. Users are to respect the rights of and the intellectual property of others in accordance with Federal Copyright Law. Transferring copyrighted material to or from a school without expressed permission of the owner is a violation of Federal Law.

## ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY

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- **Examples of Unacceptable Uses:**
  - Users must not use equipment to harass, threaten, deceive, intimidate, offend, embarrass, or annoy any individual.
  - Users must not post, publish, or display any defamatory, inaccurate, violent, abusive, profane or sexually oriented material. Do not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude or threatening language. Do not knowingly or recklessly post false information about any persons, students, staff or any other organization.
  - Users must not use a photograph, image or likeness of any student, or employee without express permission of that individual and of the principal. Users must not use school equipment to create any site, post any photo, image or video of another except with express permission of that individual and the principal. Maintaining or posting material to a Web site or blog that threatens a likelihood of substantial disruption in school, including harming or interfering with the rights of other students to participate fully in school or extracurricular activities is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and subject to the disciplinary measure found herein.
  - Users must not attempt to circumvent system security, guess passwords, or in any way gain access to secured resources, another person's files or another person's password.
  - Users must not install, move, delete, download, upload, reconfigure, or modify any software or files on school equipment without permission.
  - Users must not move, repair, reconfigure, modify, or attach external devices to the systems without permission.
  - Users must not deliberately visit a site known for unacceptable material or any material that is not in support of educational objectives. Students must not access entertainment sites, for example social networking sites such as myspace.com or facebook.com or gaming sites, except for educational purposes under teacher supervision.
  - Users are not to plagiarize content and may not present the work of another as their own without properly citing that work.
  - Users must not violate license agreements, copy disks, CD-ROMs, or other protected media. Users must not use technology for any illegal activity. Use of the Internet for commercial gains or profits is not allowed from an educational site.
- **Reporting:** Users must report immediately any damage or change to the school's hardware/software that is noticed by the user.
- **Electronic Devices:** Users must adhere to local school policy regarding the use of additional electronic devices including but not limited to personal digital assistants (PDA), calculators, gaming devices, cellular phones, and pagers. Access will be determined by the administrator of the school. The school's technology policy regarding authorization, use, responsibility, integrity, intellectual property, and monitoring will be applied to these devices.
- **Administrative Rights:** The Office of Catholic Education or the school administration at any time may add additional rules and restrictions. The school has the right to monitor both student and employee use of school computers.

Violation of the above rules will be dealt with by the administration of the school. Violation of these rules may result in any or all of the following:

- Loss of use of the school network, computers and software, including Internet access. The student will be expected to complete work on a non-networked, stand-alone computer system.
- Issuance of demerits/detentions, if applicable.
- Disciplinary action including, but not limited to, dismissal and/or legal action by the school, civil authorities, or other involved parties.

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**Student Internet Access Contract**

I understand that when I am using the Internet or any other computer/telecommunications device, I must adhere to all rules of courtesy, etiquette, and laws regarding the copying of information as prescribed by either Federal, State, or local laws, and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and (school name)

\_\_\_\_\_.

My signature below and that of my parents(s) or guardian(s) means that I agree to follow the guidelines of this *Acceptable Use Policy for Technology for the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*

*Student Name/ID* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date* \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Parent or Guardian:** We ask that you review this policy with your child and sign below:

**Student Access Contract**

I hereby release \_\_\_\_\_ (school name) and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, its personnel and any other institutions with which it is affiliated, from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my child's use of, or inability to use, the Internet Access, including but not limited to claims that may arise from the unauthorized use of the system to purchase products or services.

I will instruct my child regarding any restrictions against accessing materials that as outlined by the *Acceptable Use Policy for Technology for the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*. I will emphasize to my child the importance of following rules for personal safety.

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the *Acceptable Use Policy for Technology for the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia* for \_\_\_\_\_ (school name). I hereby give my permission for my child to use the Internet and will not hold \_\_\_\_\_ (school name) or the Archdiocese of Philadelphia liable as a result of my daughter's/son's use of the Internet on school premises. I understand that my child has agreed not to access inappropriate material on the Internet.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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**Faculty and Staff Internet Access Contract**

I understand that when I am using the Internet or any other computer/telecommunications device, I must adhere to all rules of courtesy, etiquette, privacy and laws regarding the copying information as prescribed by either Federal, State, or local laws, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and \_\_\_\_\_  
(school name).

My signature below indicates that I agree to follow the guidelines of this *Acceptable Use Policy for Technology for the Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*.

*Teacher's Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_