

Bernards Township School District

Acceptable Practices of Computers and the Internet

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purposes of the school are to use Internet resources for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The students are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

Network Rules

Privacy –Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review communications to maintain system integrity and insure that students are using the system responsibly.

Illegal copying - Students should *never* download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless they have permission from their teacher. Students should not copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

Inappropriate materials or language - No profane, abusive or impolite language should be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. Should a student encounter such material by accident, they should report it their teacher immediately.

Access – The Board provided access to computer network/computers for educational purposes only. The Board retains the right to restrict or terminate pupil access to the computer network/computers at any time, for any reason.

Consent Requirement – Please review, complete and return the consent form on the next page.

Reference: Board of Education Policy 2361

<http://www.bernardsboe.com/District/pdf/pdfpol/2361.pdf>

COMPUTER USE CONSENT FORM

Rules for Appropriate Use of the School Network

Students may not use the computer network(s) in a manner that:

1. Intentionally disrupts network traffic or crashes the network – included, but not limited to chain letters, junk mail & spamming;
2. Degrades or disrupts equipment or system performance;
3. Uses the computing resources of our District for commercial purposes, financial gain, or fraud;
4. Steals data or other intellectual property;
5. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to the files of others or vandalize the data of another user;
6. Gains or seeks unauthorized access to resources or entities;
7. Forges electronic mail messages or uses and account owned by others;
8. Invades privacy of others;
9. Posts anonymous messages;
10. Possesses any data which is a violation of this policy; and/or
11. Engages in other activities, **including personal e-mail**, that do not advance the educational purposes for which computer network/computers are provided.

Individuals in violation of any of the above are subject to discipline including but not limited to:

1. Use of the network only under direct supervision;
2. Suspension of network privileges;
3. Revocation of network privileges;
4. Suspension of computer privileges;
5. Revocation of computer privileges;
6. Suspension from school.

* I have read the Acceptable Use Practices (page 1)

* I understand these Acceptable Use Practices.

* I agree to abide by these practices. If I do not, I may lose my network access and related privileges and may be subject to disciplinary action.

* In connection with inquiries into possible abuses, Bernards Township School District reserves the right to examine files, programs, passwords, network traffic, printouts or other computing material.

Student Signature: _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____

Home Address: _____
Street Apt. City Zip

Print Student Name _____

Home Room _____ **Home Room Teacher** _____

(These rules are in effect for the middle school years)

