

The Northwest School Division #203

Computer Network *Acceptable Use Policy* for Students

A. Educational Purpose

The Northwest School Division provides a networked computer system, including access to the Internet, to promote educational excellence, to increase alternate sources of information, to promote resource sharing, to further innovation in instruction and communication, and to prepare students for their future. This computer system includes all hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, printers, CD-ROM drives, tape drives, servers, desktop computers, the Internet, and local and metropolitan area networks.

The Internet is a global network of computers connected by telephone or cable lines. It is a fluid environment of constantly changing unregulated information that is used as an information resource similar to the way in which books, magazines, newspapers, and videos are used. Internet services and technologies offer valuable learning experiences for students and sources of information for teachers. It is, however, impossible to predict the accuracy and age appropriateness of material that students may access. It is possible that your child may run across areas of adult content or materials that we find objectionable. Therefore, the School Board is obliged to inform parents of potential risks and benefits, and to impose governance on what students see and do. The School Division will take all reasonable steps through vigilance and monitoring to safeguard that students will not accidentally or purposefully find inappropriate materials.

Responsibilities of All Users

1. All use of the Internet, networks, and computer technology must be in support of the educational program of the school in which the student is enrolled. These will be used to support the Saskatchewan curriculum, the educational community, projects between schools and the local community, especially in communication and research for division students, teachers, administrators and residents.
2. The Internet, networks, and computer technology may not be used for illegal activity; for profit purposes; non-school/non-community related activities; lobbying; direct advertising; transmitting or receiving offensive materials; hate mail; discriminating remarks; or to obtain or send obscene, pornographic, sexist, racist, anarchistic, violent, or bomb making material. Abusive language will not be tolerated. Users may not swear, use vulgarities, harass, or use any other inappropriate language. Use of the network to transmit material likely to be offensive or objectionable to recipients is prohibited.
3. Users are forbidden to access any IRC (Internet Relay Chat) lines or similar Internet entity. Students may only use email providers (such as Gaggle.net) that are approved by the Northwest School Division.
4. Users shall not intentionally seek information, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network. Users may not give their password to anyone. Users may not send or receive a message with someone else's name on it.
5. Use of school technology, networks or Internet for fraudulent or illegal copying, communication, taking or modification of material in violation of law is prohibited and will be referred to appropriate authorities. Uploading/Downloading or use of unauthorized games, programs, files or other electronic media is prohibited.
6. The illegal use of copyrighted software, files, pictures or other electronic information is prohibited. Students may not use plagiarized information obtained from the Internet to complete school projects, papers, or research assignments.
7. Hardware or software shall not be destroyed, modified or abused in any way. Intentionally altering the files and/or the hardware on school computers will be viewed as vandalism. Vandalism also includes the uploading or creation of computer viruses. Each student will be held responsible for the intentional altering of a computer work station that occurs while they are logged into the computer or network.

8. The user shall be responsible for damages to the school's or service provider's equipment, systems and software resulting from deliberate or wilful acts.

9. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose. Attempts to log on to the Internet, network, or work station under other assumed identifications will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with computer systems may be denied access to the Internet or other technological services.

10. All communication and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be the private property of the user and school district and is not to be disclosed unless it is in violation of the outlined procedures in this document. If a violation occurs, a teacher or administrator must be notified.

11. Users are forbidden to bypass any internet content filtering solution deployed by the Northwest School Division. Users shall not access, modify or delete any network setting or policy.

12. Users are not to download, install, modify or delete any software applications.

13. Users are not permitted to connect, modify or remove any network resource.

14. Access to computers is a privilege not a right. Loss of this privilege is a natural consequence of abuse and may restrict a student's ability to participate in some courses or course activities.

15. The Northwest School Division may terminate the availability of Internet, network or computer technologies accessibility at its sole discretion.

16. This acceptable use policy will be periodically reviewed by the Northwest School Division and may be modified or added to as new situations arise or as the technology changes. Determinations may also be made on whether specific uses of the network are consistent with this policy.

17. The Northwest School Division reserves the right to log and monitor Internet use, to review any material stored on its computer systems and to edit, report, or remove any material which is deemed to be unlawful, abusive, or otherwise in conflict with the views and ethical standards held by the Board.

18. The Northwest School Division reserves the right to remove a user account on the network to prevent further unauthorized activity as specified in this document.

16. Limitation of Liability: In no event shall the Northwest School Division be liable for any damages, whether direct, indirect, special or consequential, arising out of the use of the Internet, accuracy or correctness of databases or information contained therein or related, directly or indirectly, to any failure or delay of access to the Internet. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk.

19. Failure to follow the procedures listed above will result in suspension or loss of the right to access the Internet, to use Northwest School Division's technology, and the user may be subject to other disciplinary or legal actions.

20. As users of this system, students will notify a teacher or administrator of any violations of this policy taking place by other students or outside parties. This may be done anonymously.

21. Users may not make unauthorized disclosure of, use of, or dissemination of a minor's personal information by means of the Internet, e-mail or any other electronic technology. A minor must have the authorization of their parent or guardian to disclose their own personal information.

STUDENT AGREEMENT

I understand and will abide by the above ***Acceptable Use Agreement***. I understand that this Internet/Network access is designed for educational purposes. I further understand that any violation of these guidelines may result in my Internet/Network privileges being restricted or revoked and also may result in school disciplinary action. If the violation constitutes a criminal offence, appropriate legal action may be taken.

Student's Name (please print)

Student's Signature

Date

PARENT OR GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the ***Acceptable Use Agreement***. I understand that this Internet/Network access is designed for educational purposes. I support the division's standards for my child to follow when selecting, sharing, or exploring information on the Internet/Network. I recognize that some controversial materials exist on the Internet. I will not hold the school division responsible for materials acquired on the Internet. I hereby give permission for my child to use the Internet at school.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print)

Parent or Guardian's Signature

Date

In accordance with:

Saskatchewan Educational Technology Consortium Acceptable Use Policy
Saskatchewan Education, Best Practices Guide