

Responsible Use Policy

We are pleased to be able to offer our students and staff access to computer technology, including access to the Internet, certain online services, and our local information technology network. We are dedicated to the access and support of appropriate technology which unlocks our potential and connects us locally and globally. We envision a learning environment where technology is a part of us, not apart from us.

We believe that the tremendous value of technology and the information technology network as an educational resource far outweighs the potential risks. We will leverage existing and emerging technology as a means to learn and thrive in the 21st Century and prepare our students for success toward their goals in the competitive global, electronic age. We feel that access to the tools and resources of a world-wide network and understanding when and how these tools are appropriately and effectively used are imperative in each student's education.

The school's information technology resources, including email, Internet access, and emerging Web2.0 tools such as blogs, wikis, and podcasts, are provided for educational purposes. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is acceptable, consult with your teacher or principal to help decide if its use is appropriate.

We will provide age-appropriate instruction to all students on cyber safety including but not limited to appropriate online behavior, such as interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Adherence to the following policy is necessary for continued access to the school's technological resources:

Users must respect and protect the privacy of others by:

1. Using only assigned accounts.
2. Only viewing, using, or copying passwords, data, or networks to which they are authorized.
3. Refraining from distributing private information about others or themselves.

Users must respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources by:

1. Observing all district Internet filters and network security practices.
2. Reporting security risks or violations to a teacher or network administrator.
3. Not destroying or damaging data, networks, or other resources that do not belong to them, without clear permission of the owner.
4. Conserving, protecting, and sharing these resources with other users.
5. Notifying a staff member or administrator of computer or network malfunctions.

Users must respect and protect the intellectual property of others by:

1. Following copyright laws (not making illegal copies of music, games, or movies).
2. Citing sources when using others' work (not plagiarizing).

Users must respect and practice the principles of community by:

1. Communicating only in ways that are kind and respectful.
2. Reporting threatening or discomfoting materials to a teacher or administrator.

3. Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that violates the school's code of conduct (such as messages/content that is pornographic, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
4. Not intentionally accessing, transmitting, copying, or creating material that is illegal (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works).
5. Not using the resources to further other acts that are criminal or violate the school's code of conduct.
6. Avoiding spam, chain letters, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
7. Refraining from buying, selling, advertising, or otherwise conducting business, unless approved as a school project.

Users may, if in accord with the policy above:

1. Design and post web pages and other material from school resources.
2. Communicate electronically via tools such as email, chat, text, or videoconferencing (students require a teacher's permission).
3. Install or download software, if also in conformity with laws and licenses.
4. Use the resources for any educational purpose.

Users who utilize Webster School District equipment off district grounds will:

1. Adhere to this agreement at all times.
2. Not tamper with security messages installed by the district for content filtering of the Internet.
3. Engage in educational activities. The district may investigate reports of unacceptable use of district owned equipment off the district premises.

Consequences for Violation:

Computer networks and school owned devices may only be used for educational purposes as permitted by staff. Inappropriate use may result in the loss of access, disciplinary action, and/or referral to legal authorities. Persons wishing to appeal discipline decisions related to computer network use privileges may do as follows:

Step 1: After a ruling by the building principal that results in disciplinary action, the user (or parent/guardian) may appeal the decision in writing to the District Administrator, provided the appeal is received within five working/school days from the first day of action.

Step 2: The District Administrator, within five working days of receipt of such written appeal, will set a date for a hearing with the School Board. All decisions made by the School Board are final.

Supervision and Monitoring:

The use of District owned information technology resources is not private. School and network administrators and their authorized employees monitor the use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions, and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the School District of Webster that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil service, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap as required by s. 118.13 Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color, and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (disability), and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district encourages informal resolution of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the School District of Webster.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to:

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