

Bristol County Agricultural High School

Student Acceptable Use Policy

We are pleased to offer students of the Bristol County Agricultural High School access to the school's computer network which includes access to the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission and must sign and return this form to the high school. Students 18 and over may sign their own forms.

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. Our efforts along with the efforts of Additions Network have resulted in a filter that will block 99% of any offensive Internet content. 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.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computers just as they are in a classroom, school hallway or bus. Communications on the network are often public in nature. Adherence to all school rules and behavior expectations as stated in our Student Handbook is required.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. **Access is a privilege - not a right.** Access entails responsibility.

Individual users of the school's network are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. **Each student will be issued a user's account which will be monitored.** This account must be password protected and not shared or left accessible by other user. It is presumed that users will comply with school standards in each area and will honor the agreements they have signed.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Also known as your "Home Folder", staff members may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are utilizing the system responsibly. Users should not have an expectation that files stored on school servers will always be private.

Responsible communications and access to information will be honored within reason. Student access to computer networks will be guided toward appropriate resources during the school day by their teachers. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for similar guidance as exercised with regard to information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

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In an effort to promote safe and effective learning experiences, the following practices are prohibited while utilizing our computer network:

- **Wasting the school's bandwidth by playing games, music and videos for entertainment**
- Leaving your account accessible or logged-on to a PC (You must log off or shutdown.)
- Instant messaging
- Controlling or accessing other computers with remote access
- Using obscene language
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Visiting websites that have inappropriate content for the school setting. (Examples: Sites of sexually explicit nature, sites that promote violence and hate, and sites that offer information that could endanger the health and safety of any individual.)
- Furthering any political or religious purpose
- Engaging in any commercial or fundraising purpose
- Sending threatening or harassing messages
- Accessing or sharing sexually explicit, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate materials
- Intercepting communications intended for other persons
- Logging in through another person's account or attempting to access another user's password or files
- Sending defamatory or libelous material concerning a person or group of people
- Furthering any illegal act, including infringing on any intellectual property rights
- Downloading, uploading, or distributing any files, software, or other material that is not specifically related to an educational project
- Downloading, uploading, or distributing any files, software, or other material in violation of federal copyright laws
- Engage in any activity that could be interpreted as Bullying

As a student at Bristol County Agricultural High School you will be given Network, Internet and E-mail access as well as access to many other technology tools. Please use them responsibly.

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary action, including, but not limited to: demerits, Saturday detentions, suspensions, expulsion, and monetary restitution. Legal action may also be pursued, as appropriate.

There is NO expectation of privacy to be held by users of our school computer network.