

SUBJECT: ACCEPTABLE INTERNET USE

The Wallkill Central School District is committed to optimizing student learning. It considers student access to the Internet to be a powerful and valuable educational and research tool, and encourages the use of computers and computer-related technology at the Wallkill Central School District solely for the educational benefits it expects its students to enjoy from such use. The use of the Internet account must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the educational objectives. Use of any other organization's network of computing resources must comply with the rules for that network.

Definitions

- a) The MHRIC (Mid-Hudson Regional Information Center) is the Access Provider, and in such capacity shall provide Internet access to authorized Account Holder/Users as set forth herein.
- b) Account Holders/Users: Account Holders/Users are students and/or staff of the Wallkill Central School District who are authorized to use all or part of the Internet services as set forth herein. An "Account Holder" is a person who is issued an access account. Other persons granted use of the Internet and its parts will be known as "Users". These "Users" must also abide by the Acceptable Use Policy put forth by Wallkill Central School District.
- c) Internet Service: The following is a list and descriptions of some internet services which may be provided to users:
 1. World Wide Web – The World Wide Web is a vast network of information that provides links to other information embedded within a document. The World Wide Web allows users to pursue an individual path through the information being presented. It incorporated texts, graphics, sound and video and creates a hypermedia environment.
 2. Electronic Communication (E-Mail) – Electronic Communication is a general term for the ways in which a computer is used to communicate to/with other computer users. Account Holder/Users should not expect privacy for any use of E-mail, or any other use of the computer network. Whenever an Account Holder/User sends electronic mail, his/her names and User I.D. are included in each mail message. Account Holders/Users are responsible for all electronic mail originating from their User I.D.s.
 3. LISTSERVS – A listserv is a means to broadcast an e-mail message to many users for the purpose of maintaining a discussion list. LISTSERV messages are translated via e-mail, correspondence is public, as are origination E-mail addresses, and such communications are not private. The same restrictions concerning inappropriate communication listed in the Electronic Communication section above applies to LISTSERVS as well.

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4. File Transfer Protocol or FTP – File Transfer Protocol is a means of moving files between computers on the Internet. No copyrighted information may be downloaded without the permission of the author. Public domain materials (which are not protected by copyright) may be downloaded but the Account Holder/Users assumes all responsibility regarding the determination of whether the materials are in the Public Domain. The Account Holder/User is responsible for any damages to the network or standalone computers from the downloaded files that many contain viruses.
 5. Telnet – Telnet allows users to connect to other computers on the Internet, provided the user knows the machine's Internet address and appropriate password. All provisions of this document apply while using remote computers via Telnet.
 6. Gopher – Gopher is a means of navigating the Internet via a menu-driven interface to the computer. Gopher is a very convenient way to retrieve files and information from sources all around the world. For most purposes, it may be considered an easier form of FTP and can be used to initiate Telnet sessions. All provisions of this document apply while assessing Gopher.
 7. USENET Newsgroups – Usenet Newsgroups are discussions groups about a topic that is reflected in their titles, such as k12.ed.math or rec.music.beatles. Many of the newsgroups have worldwide distribution, and their followers post messages, called "articles" to which all can be read and respond. All provisions of this document apply while accessing or posting to Newsgroups.
- d) **Inappropriate Uses of the System:** The Internet Services provided or accessed over the System may not be used for inappropriate or unlawful activities. A non-exhaustive, illustrative list of prohibited uses and activities are listed below. The District will be responsible for determining whether a particular use or activity is inappropriate; however, the Access Provider reserves the right to suspend or revoke the account of any user who it believes is engaging in an inappropriate use or activity.
1. Inappropriate language – obscene, lewd, profane or vulgar language.
 2. Harassing and unwanted contacts – this includes the use of e-mail to harass another person on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, age or disability; threats to the health, welfare or safety of another person; or to disseminate false or defamatory material about another person.
 3. Language that causes, or is reasonably expected to cause, a material or substantial disruption in school operations.

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4. Dangerous information – information that, if acted upon, could reasonably be expected to cause damage to person or property; or present a danger of disruption in school operations.
5. Communication, which is used to plan or to further a criminal activity.
6. Violations of privacy and/or public safety – revealing personally identifiable information about oneself or others.
7. Abuse of resources – chain letters, spamming - i.e., the mass mailing of e-mail for solicitation purposes.
8. Copyright infringement or plagiarism.
9. Downloading, transmitting, posting, printing or storing of obscene or pornographic material.
10. Any other activity, which would violate state or federal law, or a school policy, rule or regulation.
11. Obscene or pornographic material, or material that is harmful to minors: The definition of obscene or pornographic material, or material that is harmful to minors shall be consistent with applicable law and judicial interpretations.

Acceptable Use and Conduct

- a) Access to the Internet on Wallkill Central School District's computer network and the use of the computers is provided solely for educational purposes and research. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use (as defined above) may result in suspension or revocation of that privilege.
- b) Each person in whose name an access account is issued (an "Account Holder") shall be responsible at all times for its proper use. All Account Holders will be issued a login name and password. Passwords may be changed periodically.
- c) Other persons granted use of the Internet and its parts will be known as "Users". These "Users" must also abide by the Acceptable Use Policy put forth by Wallkill Central School District.
- d) All account holders/users shall not install or remove any software on Wallkill Central School District computers.

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The following is a list of prohibited activity concerning the use of the Internet by Account Holders/Users. Violation of any of these prohibitions may result in discipline or the other appropriate penalty, including suspension or revocation of an Account Holder's/User's access to the Internet:

- a) Using the Internet for commercial activity, including advertising.
- b) Infringement on any copyrights or other intellectual property rights, including copying, installing, receiving, transmitting, or making available any copyrighted software on the District computer network without the permission of the owner.
- c) Using any Internet Service to receive, transmit or make available to others communications or materials that:
 - 1. are obscene, pornographic or harmful to minors;
 - 2. may harass a person on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, age or disability;
 - 3. threaten a person;
 - 4. are defamatory or libelous towards a person.
- d) Using another Account Holder/User's account or password without authorization from a school official.
- e) Attempting to read, delete copy, or modify the electronic mail (e-mail) of other Account Holders/Users and deliberately tampering with the ability of other Account Holder/Users to send and/or receive e-mail.
- f) Forging or attempting to forge e-mail messages.
- g) Engaging in vandalism. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy Wallkill Central School District equipment or materials, data of another Account Holder/User or any of the entities or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, creating and/or placing a computer virus on the Wallkill Central School District Services network.

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- h) Revealing the personal address, telephone number of other personally identifiable information of a student under the age of 18 without authorization of the student's parent and a school official.
- i) Using any Internet Service in a manner that violates state or federal law, or any School District policy, rule or regulation.
- j) Using any Internet Service to express lewd, vulgar or profane language that causes, or is reasonably expected to cause, a material or substantial disruption to school operation or interference with the rights of others.

No Privacy Guarantee

Account Holders/Users who use the District's computer networks for any Internet Service have no reasonable expectation of privacy for any Internet Service that the District provides over its computer network. The District reserves the right to conduct periodic audits, inspections and monitoring of any of the materials that are stored on any of its computers and related equipment, including e-mail, file directories and session logs, to preserve and protect its property. The District also reserves the right to inspect and monitor any account.

- a) All Account Holders/Users using Wallkill Central School District computer equipment and network are required to comply with the rules set forth in this policy. Failure to comply with the policy may result in disciplinary action as well as suspension and/or revocation of access privileges.
- b) Illegal activities are strictly prohibited. Any information pertaining to or suggestive of any illegal activity may be reported to the proper authorities. Transmission of any material in violation of any federal, state and/or local law or regulation is prohibited.

Responsibilities

- a) While the Internet provides a wealth of knowledge, there is also a large amount of inaccurate misinformation on the Internet. Neither Wallkill Central School District nor the Access Provider makes any warranties of any kind, either express or implied, for the contents of the information being accessed over the District's system. Further, neither the Wallkill Central School District nor the Access Provider assume responsibility for the quality, availability, accuracy, nature, or reliability of the material accessible over the District's system. Account Holders/Users use information at their own risk.

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- b) Neither Wallkill Central School District nor the Access Provider will be responsible for any damages suffered by any Account Holder/User resulting from the use of the Internet. Nor will Wallkill Central School District or the Access Provider be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations resulting from the use of the Internet.
- c) Wallkill Central School District or the Access Provider may use technical or manual means to regulate access and information on the Internet, but these methods do not provide a foolproof means of enforcing the Wallkill Central School District's Acceptable Use Policy. Each Account Holder/User will be responsible for abiding the guidelines set forth herein.
- d) Nothing herein shall be construed to infringe upon or impair any constitutional rights of the Account Holders/User.