

Lancaster Community School District

Instruction

STUDENT INTERNET/EMAIL USE

The Internet

The Internet is an international network of computer networks providing access to educational, commercial, governmental, and recreational resources. The Internet is an additional means of research and communication and is often called “the information superhighway.” To search the Internet, users need a computer, modem, telecommunications software, a telephone line, and an account with an Internet Service Provider. Students can find very current information not yet available in books or on CD ROMs, such as statistics on earthquakes, which occurred in the last 24 hours. They can find current information on news, weather, sports, stock quotes, court decisions, encyclopedias, careers, job openings, and colleges. They can take virtual field trips to museums such as the Smithsonian or the Louvre in Paris, France. Students can talk to other students, scientists, authors or resource people anywhere in the world.

Internet Training

District students shall receive training in the use of the Internet, including their rights and responsibilities, safety guidelines, and evaluation of resources, before going on-line. Other programs and/or tests may be required.

Internet Safety

With all types of information available on the Internet, students may inadvertently gain access to information not necessarily age and maturity appropriate. As part of a student’s use of the Internet, the faculty will suggest addresses to appropriate curriculum sites. It is important for parents/guardians to review personal safety rules with their children, and remind their children to stay on task and follow their curriculum goals.

All users are advised that Internet access includes the potential for access to materials that are inappropriate or harmful to minors. Every user (student and adult) must take responsibility for his or her use of the Internet and avoid sites and activities that are inappropriate or harmful to minors, are obscene, or child pornography. Users who find such sites shall report them to a designated official. Also, users who find other users visiting such sites shall report such misuse to a designated official. Any adult staff member is considered a designated official for student reporting. Any administrator or supervisor is considered a designated official for adult reporting.

The District shall take measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors, as well as access by minors and adults to visual depictions that are obscene, or child pornography.

- **Internet Filtering**

The Lancaster Community School District uses hardware and software that is designed to filter and block inappropriate sites, and to a lesser degree, high-risk activities. The current technologies allow for the blockage of violence/profanity, partial nudity and art, full nudity, sexual acts/text, gross depictions/text, racist/ethnic impropriety, satanic/cult, drugs and drug culture, militant/extremist, sex education, quest/illegal/gambling, alcohol-beer-wine-tobacco, sports and leisure and sites the District deems as non-educational.

The use of Internet filtering mechanisms shall not diminish the user's personal responsibility for appropriate use of the network and Internet. Filtering methods are not 100% foolproof.

- **Blocking Sites**

The District reserves the right to block sites that do not enhance classroom activities and/or career development. Staff and students are encouraged to contact the designated officials, should any one inadvertently access a site that is inappropriate for the school setting.

- **Removing the Filter for a Blocked Site**

Removing a site from the blocked list shall require a high level of justification. Anyone wishing the removal shall submit the request in writing. The request shall be given to the building Principal, who shall then submit the request to the District Administration for further review. The decision to remove the block on the site shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Does the educational value of the site significantly outweigh the inappropriate nature of the site?
2. Does the site significantly enhance the curriculum?
3. Can the material/information be obtained from other more appropriate sources?

Individuals shall be notified of the approval or disapproval of the request in a timely manner. If the removal of the site is granted, the Administrative team will further indicate the length of time the block is to be removed.

Internet Conduct

The use of telecommunications networks including the Internet is a privilege for students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner while on-line. All Internet and email use may be subject to monitoring by authorized District staff. Students are expected to abide by established user expectations, responsibilities, rules, and guidelines for Internet safety.

Penalties for Violating the Student Internet/Email Use Policy/Guidelines

The use of computers and telecommunications networks, including the Internet and email, is a privilege and users must take personal responsibility for their behavior. Penalties shall be administered if students violate the Student Internet/Email Use policy or established guidelines, based on the severity and frequency of the offense. The school administration and/or Board may assign penalties.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 118.001 Wisconsin Statutes
120.13
121.02(1)(h)
943.70
947.0125

PL 94-553, Federal Copyright Law
Children's Internet Protection Act
Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act
Children's Online Privacy Act

CROSS REF.: 363.2-Rule, Guidelines for Student Internet/Email Use
363.2-Exhibit, Student Internet/Email Access Contract
871-Exhibit, Citizen's Request for Reconsideration of Instructional
Resources

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