Lancaster Community School District

Instruction

STUDENT INTERNET/EMAIL USE

The Internet

The Internet offers a vast, diverse and unique educational resource that can promote learning and enhance instruction as a means for achieving the educational goals and mission of the Lancaster School District. The District recognizes that the Internet also has the potential for users to access information that is inconsistent with the educational goals of the District. However, the District believes that the educational benefits and interaction available through Internet Use outweighs any potential misuse.

Internet Safety/Education

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 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 always 100% effective.

- **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 a request. The request will be submitted and reviewed by the Technology Department staff and/or Administrative team. 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 Safety Education**

  It shall be the responsibility of all instructional staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate use of the computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. No. 110-385 Title II).

The Lancaster School District will promote safe online activity for children and adults and educate them about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyber bullying awareness and response. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Teaching students how to locate and evaluate appropriate electronic sources.
  - Teaching students information literacy skills, including understanding of safety, copyright, ethical practice and data privacy.
  - Teaching students proper safety procedures when using electronic mail, chat rooms, social networking websites, cyber bullying awareness and response, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

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.

- **Cyber Bullying**

The District's Internet connection, whether accessed on campus or off campus, during or after school hours, may not be used for the purpose of harassment. All forms of harassment over the Internet, commonly referred to as cyber bullying, are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of this policy and the District's Bullying Policy.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, blogs and social networking posts.

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
                  458 – Student Bullying Policy
                  Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)
                  Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (N-CIPA)
                  Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act
                  Broadband Data Improvement Act 2008 – S. 1492[110th]

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