

## Student Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

### Educational Purpose:

Students shall use the Internet system for educational purpose. Educational purpose includes *Willow Creek Charter School* & TechnoKids activities and projects or limited high-quality self-discovery activities.

### Limitations on Non-Educational Activities:

Students shall not use the Internet system for the following non-educational activities:

- a. Students shall not use the Internet system for commercial purposes, defined as offering or providing products or services.
- b. Students shall not use the Internet system for purchasing products or services.
- c. Students shall not use the Internet system for political lobbying except to analyze legislative measures and communicate their opinion to elected officials via the Internet.

### Technical Services provided Through the Internet:

Students have access to the following technical services:

1. **E-mail.** E-mail will allow users to communicate with people throughout the world. Users will also be able to subscribe to mail lists to engage in group discussions related to educational subjects. Students in grades 3-8 will obtain a Hotmail account and will use it to complete academic projects.
2. **World Wide Web.** The Web provides access to a wide range of information in the form of text, graphics, photographs, video, and sound, from throughout the world. The Web is a valuable research tool for students.
3. **Newsgroups.** Newsgroups are discussion groups that are similar to mail lists. Students shall have access to selected newsgroups that relate to subjects that are appropriate to the educational purpose.
4. **Internet Relay Chat (IRC).** IRC provides the capability of engaging in "real-time" discussions. Students will have access to IRC only for specifically defined educational activities.

### Student Safety:

- a. Students shall not reveal personal contact information about themselves (full name, address, phone number) when using the Internet.
- b. Students shall not agree to meet with someone they have met online without their parent's/guardian's approval and participation.

### Student Access to the Internet System:

- a. Students shall not access material using the Internet system that has been deemed inappropriate for school use. Inappropriate material is defined as:
  - Dangerous information -- information that if acted upon could cause damage or presents a danger of disruption.
  - Criminal information -- information that advocates or condones the commission of unlawful acts including instructions on breaking into computer systems, child pornography, drug dealing, gang activities, etc.
  - Inappropriate language -- obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language; harassment; personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; or false or defamatory material about a person or organization.
  - Information that is inappropriate in an educational setting or violates school rules.
- b. Should students accidentally encounter inappropriate material they shall disengage from it immediately and report it to their teacher.

- c. Students shall not post defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, offensive, or illegal material to the Internet.
- d. Students shall not use inappropriate language in email messages. Inappropriate language is defined as obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening, or inflammatory language; harassment; personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; or false or defamatory material about a person or organization.
- e. Students shall promptly disclose to their teacher, any email messages they receive that are inappropriate or make them feel uncomfortable.
- f. Students shall not send "spam". Spam is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people, such as chain letters.
- g. Students shall not download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks.
- h. Students shall not deliberately attempt to disrupt the computer system performance or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
- i. Students shall not read, copy, modify or erase other people's files.

**Student Privacy:**

Students acknowledge that the routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that they have violated the law or a school rule. TechnoKids & *SCHOOL NAME* reserves the right to search email messages or Internet cache files if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search would turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or rules of the school.

**Plagiarism and Copyright:**

- a. Students shall not reproduce copyrighted material without explicit permission.
- b. Students shall not plagiarize. Students shall stay within the bounds of the "fair use doctrine" of copyright law and must cite the source of information taken from the Internet.

**The Disciplinary Process:**

Internet access is an educational activity that is considered to be an important component of the educational environment in the preparation of students for life and work in the 21st Century. It is an essential requirement for the completion of assignments. Therefore Internet access is being provided to students for an educational purpose and access should not be denied, restricted, or suspended without due process as follows:

- a. Students shall receive a notification about an alleged violation and will be allowed to tell his or her side of the story to make sure that no injustice is done.
- b. TechnoKids or *SCHOOL NAME* may suspend access to the Internet system upon any violation of the AUP.
- c. Violation of the disciplinary code of the school when using the Internet system will be handled in accord with the disciplinary code.
- d. Suspicion of illegal activity when using the Internet system or violation of the law will result in the appropriate legal authorities being contacted to handle the situation.

**Liability**

TechnoKids & *Willow Creek Charter School* shall not assume responsibility if a student causes harm to another person or organization as a direct result of using the Internet. TechnoKids & *Willow Creek Charter School* shall not be responsible for losses sustained by users resulting from the Internet system. These losses could involve loss of data, an interruption of services, or reliance on the accuracy of information maintained on the system or accessed through the system. Educators and students should make a personal back up of material contained on the computer system.