

Acceptable Use Agreement – Release from Liability

Electronic Equipment and Resources San Mateo Union High School District

The San Mateo Union High School District is pleased to offer students access to the district computer network for electronic mail and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission and must sign and return this form to the school office. Students 18 and over may sign their own forms.

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore libraries, museums, on-line tutorials, databases, and other reference materials and connect with Internet users throughout the world. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet contains items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the District's intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access less desirable materials, as well. The District uses filtering programs to prevent this; however, they are not 100 percent effective. The staff believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information resources. To that end, district supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

District Internet Rules

Students should be held accountable for responsible behavior on school computer networks just as they are in classrooms or on school grounds. General school rules for proper behavior and communications apply.

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. Students will report any misuse of the network to the staff member in charge. Parent's/guardian's permission is required to use the Internet and e-mail.

Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Network storage areas are treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure responsible use. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers are private.

Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility

During school, teachers will guide students toward appropriate materials. Parents/guardians bear the same responsibility for such guidance at home.

*The following are not permitted:

- Sending or displaying of offensive messages or pictures
- Using obscene or abusive language
- Viewing pornography or other inappropriate sites
- Harassing, insulting, threatening or attacking others
- Damaging computers, unauthorized access or hacking of computer systems, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws or plagiarizing another person's materials to complete an assignment
- Using another's password
- Accessing chat lines, unless authorized by the instructor for a class activity directly supervised by a staff member
- Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Employing the network for other than educational purposes
- Disclosure of any personal identification while using electronic communication.*

* (except to authenticate sender and receiver of student e-mail.)