

# Georgia-Cumberland Conference Acceptable Use Policy For Information Technologies Grades 7 - 12

Internet access is offered for student use with the intent to further educational goals and objectives. This service has not been established as a public access or public forum. Each school has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material you access or post, and to specify the training you need to have before you are allowed to use the system. Access to the Internet through this school's system requires permission from both the Principal (or his/her Designee) and your parents.

Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information services. Recognizing the potential for accessing sites other than the educational ones indicated by the classroom activities, families may choose not to permit their children access to the Internet through the school's network.

The following are guidelines for use of this system:

- 1. Access**
  - a. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access carries many responsibilities.
  - b. Teachers have the right and the duty to schedule, monitor and restrict both the amount of time on-line and the sites visited.
  - c. Your right to free speech is affected by our interpretation of the Internet as a limited forum, like a school newspaper, and therefore the school may restrict your right to free speech for valid educational reasons.
  - d. Students may use only the e-mail services provided by the school.
  - e. You should expect no privacy of the contents of your personal files on the school system or the Internet. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that you have violated this policy, school rules or the law. An individual search may be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion. Your parents have the right at any time to see the contents of your email or school files.
  - f. The school will cooperate fully with local, state or federal officials in any investigation related to illegal activities conducted through the system.
  - g. When you are using the system, you may feel that you can easily break a rule and not get caught. This is not true. Electronic footprints are imprinted on the system whenever an action is performed. You are likely to be caught if you break the rules.
- 2. Personal Use**
  - a. You may not use the system for commercial purposes, to offer, provide, or purchase products or services.
  - b. You may not use the system for political activities or lobbying.
- 3. Personal Safety**
  - a. You will not post personal contact information (address, phone number, etc.) about yourself or any other person.
  - b. You will not agree to meet with someone you have met online, without approval of your parents. Any request for contact of this nature, or any message you feel is inappropriate or that makes you feel uncomfortable should be reported to school authorities immediately.
- 4. Illegal Activities**
  - a. You will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to this or any other computer system, or go beyond your authorized access, by entering another person's username, password, or account number or by accessing another person's files.
  - b. You will not deliberately attempt to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses, or by any other means.
  - c. You will not use the system to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug purchase or sale, engaging in gang activity, threatening the safety of a person, etc.
  - d. You will not share games or other copyrighted programs.

**5. System Security**

- a. You are responsible for your individual account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no condition should you give your password to another person.
- b. You will never knowingly circumvent or try to circumvent the security measure on this system or on any computer at any remote site.
- c. You will immediately notify a teacher or system administrator if you have identified a security problem. Do not look for security problems; this may appear to be an attempt to gain illegal access.
- d. You will avoid the inadvertent spread of computer viruses by following the system virus protection procedures.
- e. You will not open email attachment files from unknown or anonymous senders.

**6. Inappropriate Language**

- a. On any and all uses of the Internet, whether in application to public or private messages or material posted on Web pages, you will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
- b. You will not post information that could cause danger or disruption, or engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks.
- c. You will not harass another person by a persistent action that distresses or annoys that person. You must stop any action perceived to be annoying when asked to do so.

**7. Respect for Privacy**

- a. You will not repost a message that was sent to you privately without permission of the person who sent you the message.
- b. You will not post private information about yourself or another person.
- c. You will not falsify your identity or the identity of another person.
- d. You will not change any file that is not your own.

**8. Respecting Resource Limits**

- a. You will use the system only for educational activities as directed by your teachers.
- b. You will not download files or programs without following the school procedures.
- c. You will not post chain letters or engage in spamming (meaning, sending annoying or unnecessary messages to a large number of people.)
- d. You will check your e-mail frequently, delete unwanted messages promptly, and stay within your e-mail quota.
- e. You will not subscribe to any mail lists, list serves or enter chat rooms without the knowledge and written permission or documentation from your teacher or system administrator.
- f. I will not waste resources. I will print conservatively, saving paper and ink. I will work efficiently so my time on the resources is productive.

**9. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement**

- a. You will not plagiarize words that you find on the Internet. Plagiarism means taking the ideas or writings of others and presenting them as if they were yours.
- b. You will respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when you inappropriately reproduce anything that is protected by copyright including music, movies or text. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, you should follow the expresses requirements. If you are unsure whether or not you can use a work, you should request permission from the copyright owner. Questions regarding copyright law should be directed to your teacher.

**10. Inappropriate Access to Material**

- a. You will not use the system to access material that is profane or obscene (pornography) or that advocates illegal acts, violence or discrimination toward other people (hate literature)
- b. If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you will immediately tell your teacher or other person designated by the school. This will protect you against a claim of intentional violation of this policy.
- c. You parents should instruct you if there is additional material they think would be inappropriate for you to access. The school fully expects that you will follow your parents' instruction in this matter.

