

1. **Acceptable Use** - The Vicksburg School District believes that electronic communication is a tool for life-long learning. Access through the District Network provides students and staff the opportunity to expand their knowledge by using the Internet:
  - a) As an informational resource
  - b) As a vehicle for collaboration
  - c) As a tool for research and analysis
  - d) As a medium for publishing works

All use of the Internet must be in support of education and research, and must remain consistent with the educational objectives of Vicksburg Schools.

2. **Netiquette** - Students and staff members accessing the Internet are expected to abide by the following generally-accepted rules of network etiquette.

- a) Be polite, courteous, and respectful in your messages to others. Use language appropriate to school situations. Do NOT use obscene, profane, vulgar, sexually explicit, defamatory, or abusive language in your messages.
- b) Never reveal names, addresses, phone numbers, or passwords of yourself or other users, family members, teachers, administrators, or other staff members while communicating on the Internet.
- c) Do NOT transmit pictures or other information that could be used to establish your identity without prior teacher approval.
- d) Do NOT engage in unlawful activities.

3. **Privacy** – Staff and student users of the District Network must be aware that information accessed, created, sent, received or stored on the network is not private. It is subject to review by network system administrators. The district reserves the right to monitor, review, inspect, and remove files; limit or deny access; and refer a student for other disciplinary/legal actions.

4. **Privileges** – The use of District Resources is limited to support of the academic program. The use of the District Network and Internet is a privilege that may be

revoked by the district at any time, for any reason. Appropriate reasons for revoked privileges include, but are not limited to:

- a) The altering of the system software.
- b) Placing unauthorized information on the computer system.
- c) Placing viruses or harmful programs on or through the computer system in either public or private files or messages.
- d) Behavior or communication deemed to be a misuse of the account.

5. **Unacceptable Use** – Students are responsible for their behavior and communication on the District Network and Internet. Any misuse of an account will result in suspension of the account privilege, and/or other disciplinary/legal action as determined by the District. Misuse shall include, but is not limited to:

- a) Intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users.
- b) Misrepresenting other users on the Internet/Network. (Users may only access the Network/Internet by using their assigned account. Use of another person's account/address/password is prohibited. Users may not allow others to utilize their passwords.)
- c) Malicious use of the Network/Internet to distribute hate mail, or engage in harassment, profanity, vulgar statements, or discriminatory remarks.
- d) Users may not disrupt operations by deleting or moving network files, or develop programs that infiltrate the computer system and/or damage software components.
- e) Interfere with another's use of the Network.
- f) Installation of unauthorized software.
- g) Use the Network/Internet for non-educational purposes such as hacking, gambling, political lobbying, advertising, or transmission of any material in violation of State or Federal Law, or Board Policy.
- h) Unauthorized downloading of non-instructional files/information.
- i) Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification regarding a student or staff member.

- j) Accessing, or participating in online forms of direct electronic communication including chat rooms, e-mail, instant messaging, Listservs, etc. without prior approval.
- k) Use of network to access, process, distribute, display or print pornography and/or other materials that are obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors.
- l) Use of Network/Internet to engage in plagiarism, or store copyrighted materials without consent of copyright owner.

## 6. Consequences for Misuse

**First Violation** – Depending on the nature of the violation, the student may receive a warning, a detention, or up to 10 days suspension, and restitution.

**Second Violation** – Depending on the nature of the violation, the student may receive up to 10 days suspension and/or possible recommendation for expulsion.