

ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES OF THE LMSD-NET BY STUDENTS LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Through the Internet, students of Lower Merion School District are now able to locate information beyond that available in our school libraries. The district's goal in providing access to the Internet is to enhance the quality of education by making it easier to share resources and exchange ideas and information.

Lower Merion School District students may have access to any of the following:

1. The World Wide Web.
2. Email (world-wide electronic mail).
3. Information and news from NASA.
4. Opportunity to correspond with scientists at research institutions.
5. Public domain software and graphics for school use.
6. Discussion groups on a wide range of educational topics.
7. University library catalogs, the Library of Congress and ERIC.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. It enables the members of our school community to communicate with computers and people all over the world. Because it is impossible to control the materials available through the Internet, individuals engaging in research may inadvertently access some material that is controversial or that has no educational value. However, we firmly believe that the educational value of the information and interaction available on this world-wide network overrides the risk that users may access material inconsistent with our educational goals.

The smooth operation of the network is dependent upon the proper conduct of users. The following terms and conditions are provided so that you are aware of your ethical, legal and practical responsibilities as a user of the Internet. Violation of the terms and conditions may lead to suspension of the user's account as well as subject the violator to the usual disciplinary procedures of the District (see Policy 235: Students Rights and Responsibilities).

Use of Internet -- Terms and Conditions

1. Acceptable Use: The use of your account must be in support of research associated with your education and consistent with the educational objectives of the Lower Merion School District. Use of other organizations' network or computing resources must comply with the rules of that network. The LMSD-Net shall not be used:

- for the posting or distribution of information that is harmful or prejudicial

to students, fosters disruptiveness among the students so as to interfere with the learning environment in the school district, threatens immediate harm to the welfare of the school community or any individual, harrasses any segment of the student body or interferes with another's individual rights, encourages and abets unlawful activity, violates the separation of church and state;

- for illegal activity; including the violation of copyright laws;
- to access or obtain obscene or pornographic materials;
- to intentionally cause damage to hardware, software or data;
- to gain or attempt to gain access to restricted material or systems;
- for gambling or commercial purposes or for any non-school related purposes;
- for participation in chat rooms.

2. Student Accounts: A student who receives an account must participate in a designated training session with school personnel. Inappropriate use of the account, as deemed by the school administrator, will result in its cancellation. Administration, faculty and staff of the Lower Merion School District may recommend to the Technology Coordinator that specific user accounts be denied, revoked or suspended.

3. Network Etiquette: You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. For example:

- Be polite. Messages to others should not be abusive.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities.
- Do not reveal your home address or phone number or those of other students.
- Do not use the network so that you disrupt its use by others.
- Assume that all communications and information accessible via the network are private property.

4. Email: Currently district email accounts are not provided to students. If accounts are provided in the future, students should know that email is not guaranteed to be private. The Technology Coordinator has access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to authorities.

5. No Warranties: Lower Merion School District makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages incurred, including but not limited to the loss of data resulting in delays, nondeliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or by your errors or omissions. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk.

6. Security: Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially one with many users. If you believe that you can identify a security problem on the LMSD-Net, you must notify the Technology Coordinator or your Computer Support Person. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of being a security risk with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.

7. Vandalism: Any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, of the Internet or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to any of the Internet backbones, including but not limited to the uploading or creation of computer viruses, will result in cancellation of privileges.

8. Blocking Software: Blocking Software will be used to protect minor students from obscene material, child pornography and other visual depictions deemed harmful to minors on the Internet. An administrator, supervisor, or person authorized by the school board may disable the technology protection measure if needed for bonafide research or other lawful purpose. Any individual seeking authorization to disable a technology protection measure should submit the request in writing to the Principal who will refer the request for determination by the Secondary Principals Group.

School District Internet Use Agreement

I understand and will abide by the above Internet Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may be pursued.

User's Full Name: _____
(Please Print)

User's Signature: _____

Date: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet Use Guidelines. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes.

Parent or Guardian's Name: _____
(Please Print)

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____

Date: _____

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