

## **Wayne County Internet Safety/Computer Acceptable Use Rules**

1. The computer network in the Wayne County School System is provided to students and staff for educational and research purposes. Students are not allowed to use chat lines, play computer games, or engage in commercial activities (buying, selling, and advertising) over the network.
2. The Wayne County School System is not responsible for any delays, non- or mis-delivery of e-mail, or any loss of data as a result of using the Internet.
3. The use of the Internet is a privilege. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with the use of computer systems will have his/her computer access severely limited.
4. The school system has no responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet. The Internet is unregulated and all of the information found on the Internet has not been verified for accuracy. Each user must exercise critical thinking skills when using Internet resources as source material for schoolwork. The school system will not be held responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained from the Internet.
5. Electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities. Students are cautioned not to include anything in a computer message that they would not want made public.
6. Each user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include being polite, using appropriate language (no profanity, obscenity or vulgarity), and not disrupting network use by other users.
7. Students should not reveal any personal information (description, telephone numbers, address, etc.) about themselves or other students over the Internet. They should not contact anyone they have met using Internet resources, without the knowledge and permission of their parents.
8. Loading software and/or files onto a school computer or network by a student without the permission of the school network supervisor is prohibited.
9. Students should not access sites or send material over the network that contains obscene, abusive, threatening, or illegal material. Users should not deliberately use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images or threats.
10. A filter is in place to eliminate objectionable sites. If a student discovers inappropriate material during a routine search that was not recognized by the filter, he/she should notify the teacher immediately. Students should not attempt to bypass blocks on sites deemed objectionable by the school system.
11. The principal of each school will authorize all web pages that represent the school. Students may design and publish web pages through the school network as part of classroom instructional activities. These pages may be published through the school Intranet or on password-protected pages on the Internet.
12. Students may not check their e-mail when it interferes with instructional time.
13. Vandalism of computer hardware will result in disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy the school's equipment or materials, data, and/or the computer/Internet network. Vandalism includes, but is not limited to, removing a mouse ball and/or mouse, placing foreign objects such as paperclips, paper, or gum in disk or CD-ROM drives, and removing or altering placement of keyboard keys.
14. Vandalism of computer software will also result in disciplinary action. Software vandalism includes, but is not limited to, deliberate production or introduction of computer viruses, modifying passwords, tampering with the Internet filtering software, using passwords and logins assigned to other students or staff, accessing and/or modifying information to which the computer user has not been given appropriate authorization.
15. Student vandals will be required to compensate the school or school system for any expenses or costs incurred relating to or arising out of such vandalism.
16. If the student identifies or perceives a security problem (for example, accessing files that should not be available), the student should immediately notify the principal, his/her designee or other appropriate staff. The student must not demonstrate the problem to other students.
17. All computer users in the Wayne County School System must adhere to the copyright law regarding copying and installing computer programs. The law states that it is illegal to make or distribute copies of copyrighted software without authorization.

