

INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY

In order for any user to use the Medfield Public Schools' Internet Connection and/or its e-mail system, they must read these guidelines and sign the contract. For students under the age of 18, the contract must also be signed by a parent or guardian.

INTERNET – GUIDELINES FOR USE:

Internet is a vast, global network, linking computers at universities, high schools, science labs, and other sites. Through Internet, one can communicate with people all over the world through a number of discussion forums, as well as through electronic mail. In addition, many files are available for downloading on Internet, many of which are of educational value. Because of its enormous size, Internet's potential is boundless. It is possible to speak with everyone from prominent scientists to world leaders to a friend at college. However, with such great potential for education also comes some potential for abuse. It is the purpose of this list of guidelines, as well as the contract for Internet use, to make sure that all who use Internet, both students and faculty, use this valuable resource in an appropriate manner.

The most important prerequisite for someone to utilize the Internet via Medfield's information system he or she must take full responsibility for his or her own actions. The Medfield Public School System, along with the other organizations sponsoring this Internet link-up, will not be liable for the actions of anyone connecting to Internet through this hook-up. All users shall assume full liability, legal, financial, or otherwise, for their actions.

In addition, the Medfield Public School System takes no responsibility for any information or materials that are transferred through Internet.

Building principals will be responsible for annually training staff and students on their responsibility regarding internet and e-mail use. In an effort to prevent inappropriate materials (including visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors) from entering the system, Medfield has installed a filtering software tool developed to prevent the download of such materials. However, as no filtering system is infallible, it is possible that a user might find materials which may be deemed inappropriate while using his or her Medfield Public Schools' Internet account. In the event that this occurs, the user shall refrain from downloading this material, and shall not identify or share the location of this material. However, the user shall notify an appropriate staff member when this occurs. The staff member will exit the site, and purge the address from the "history" of sites visited.

Users should be aware that the primary purpose of the Internet Connection is educational. It is essential that everyone who uses this Connection understand and adhere to that purpose. Users should note that the Medfield Public School System retains the right to/and will monitor Internet usage. Unauthorized access, so called "hacking" and other unlawful activities by users online will not be tolerated. Failure to abide by these regulations will result in disciplinary consequences, including suspension of the person's access to the Internet. Users should be aware that unlawful activities may result in police action.

The Medfield Public School System makes no guarantees, implied or otherwise, regarding the reliability of the data connection. Neither Medfield Public Schools, nor the sponsor organizations, shall be liable for any loss or corruption of data resulting while using the Internet connection.

The Medfield Public School System reserves the right to examine all data stored in the machines involved in the Internet link to make sure that all users are in compliance with these regulations.

No user shall use this Internet link to perform any act that may be construed as illegal, unethical, threatening, or harassing in any form. Nor shall the use of the link be authorized to gain unauthorized access to other systems on the network.

The administration of the Medfield Public Schools reserves the right to change these rules at any time without notice.

Any use of the network for commercial purposes, product advertisement, or political lobbying is prohibited except where specifically approved by the Medfield School Committee.

The Medfield Public School System strongly condemns the illegal distribution of software, otherwise known as pirating. Any students caught transferring such files through Internet, and any whose accounts are found to contain such illegal files, shall immediately have their accounts permanently revoked. In addition, all users should be aware that software piracy is a federal offense and is punishable by fine or imprisonment.

Finally, all users should keep in mind that when they use the Internet, they are entering a global community, and any actions taken by them will reflect upon the school system as a whole. As such, all users must behave in an ethical and legal manner.

Adopted: October 21, 1996

Revised: January 10, 1997

Revised: October 15, 2001