Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy

FOR THE COMPUTER NETWORK OF THE

Bloom Vernon Local School District

(Read and retain this document for future reference. Sign and return page 7 ONLY.)

The Bloom Vernon Local School District is pleased to make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the Worldwide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

In order for the District to control student access to electronic communications, the Internet and to continue to make its computer network available, all students must take responsibility for educationally appropriate and lawful use of this access. Students must understand that one students misuse of electronic communication devices, internet access or the network may jeopardize the ability of all students to enjoy such access. While the District's teachers and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise student use of electronic communications, the network and Internet access, they must have student cooperation in exercising and promoting responsible use.

Below is the Acceptable Use and Internet Safety policy of Bloom Vernon Local School District. Upon reviewing this policy, signing, and returning the agreement, each student will be granted limited use of personal electronic communication devices, use the District's computer network and Internet access at school pursuant to the terms of the Acceptable Use Policy. A copy of this policy, or access to this policy, shall be provided to parents. Any parent or guardian of a student under the age of 18 may direct that the student not be given access to the Internet. If you would like for your student to "opt-out" of internet and network usage, a letter must be written stating that fact and will be put on file in the school office.

Listed below are the provisions of your agreement regarding personal electronic communication devices, the computer network and Internet access. If you have any questions about these provisions, you should contact the school office. If any user violates this policy, the student's privileges shall be suspended or cancelled and he/she may be subject to additional disciplinary action. Each student is subject to the terms governing the use of personal communications devices regardless of whether or not the Acceptable Use Agreement has been signed and returned to the school office.

I. PERSONAL RESONSIBILITY

By signing this policy, you are agreeing not only to follow the rules in this policy, but are agreeing to report any misuse of the network to the building principal. Misuse means any violations of this policy or any other use that is not included in the policy, but has the effect of harming another or his/her property.

II. TERM OF THE PERMITTED USE

A student who submits to the District a properly signed policy and follows the policy to which he/she has agreed will have computer network and Internet access during the course of the school year only.

Students will be asked to sign a new policy each year during which they are students in the District before they

are given an access account.

III. USING THE NETWORK

1. Educational Purposes Only. The District is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for only educational purposes. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is educational, you may consult with the person(s) designated by the District to help you decide if a use is appropriate.

2. Unacceptable Uses of Network. Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of this policy are the following:

A. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. For example, don't transmit offensive or harassing messages; offer for sale or use any substance in possession or use of which is prohibited by the District's Student Discipline policy. Do not view, transmit, print or download pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; intrude into the networks or computers of others; and download or transmit confidential, trade secret information or copyrighted materials. Even if materials on the networks are not marked with the copyright symbol, you should assume that all materials are protected unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them.

B. Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property. For example, don't engage in defamation (harming another's reputation by lies); employ another's password or some other user identifier that misleads message recipients into believing that someone other than you is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet; upload a worm, virus, "Trojan horse," "time bomb" or other harmful form of programming or vandalism; participate in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access to other computers, networks, or information systems.

C. Uses that jeopardize the security of student access and of the computer network or other networks on the Internet. For example, don't disclose or share your password with others; don't impersonate another user.

D. Uses that are commercial transactions. For example, students may not sell or buy anything over the Internet. You should not give others private information about you or others, including credit card numbers and social security numbers.

E. Uses that monopolize network resources. For example, students may not send out mass e-mails to any local or non-local users.

F. Uses that attempt to circumvent District Internet filtering. For example, students may not bypass Internet filtering, attempt to bypass District Internet filtering, or use alternative programming to go to a site that would otherwise be blocked.

3. Netiquette. All users must abide by rules of network etiquette, which include the following:

A. Be polite. Use appropriate language. No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent or threatening language.

B. Avoid language and uses that may be offensive to other users. Don't use the network to make, distribute, or redistribute jokes, stories, or other material which is based upon slurs or stereotypes relating to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion or sexual orientation.

C. Don't assume that a sender of e-mail is giving his/her permission for you to forward or redistribute the message to third parties or to give his/her e-mail address to third parties. This should only be done with permission or when you know that the individual would have no objection.

D. Be considerate when sending attachments with e-mail. Be sure that the file is not too large to be accommodated by the recipient's system and is in a format that the recipient can open.

IV. INTERNET SAFETY

1. General Warning; Individual responsibility of parents and users. All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his/her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents of minors are the best guides to materials to shun. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he/she should report such use to the person designated by the District.

2. Personal Safety. Be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name or any other information which might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you "meet" on the computer network or Internet without your parent's permission (if you are under 18). Regardless of your age, you should never agree to meet a person you have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

3. "Hacking" and Other Illegal Activities. It is a violation of this policy to use the District's computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any use which violates State or Federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance and is strictly prohibited.

4. Confidentiality of Student Information. Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without the permission of a parent or guardian or, if the student is 18 or over, the permission of the student himself/herself. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet, particularly credit card numbers and social security numbers. A supervising teacher or administrator may authorize the release of directory information, as defined by District Board policies, for internal administrative purposes or approved educational projects and activities.

5. Active Restriction Measures. The District, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. The District will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that students are not accessing such depictions or any other material that is inappropriate for minors. The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h] [7]) as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

A. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion.
B. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals or
C. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

V. PRIVACY

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the District and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

VI. FAILURE TO FOLLOW POLICY

The user's use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user who violates this policy shall, at a minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and Internet terminated, which the District may refuse to reinstate for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the District. A user violates this policy by his/her own action or by failing to report any violations by other users that come to the attention of the user. Further, a user violates this policy if he/she permits another to use his/her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated. The District may also take other disciplinary action in such circumstances.

VII. WARRANTIES/IDEMNIFICATION

The District makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer network and the Internet provided under this policy. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user's use of its computer network or the Internet under this policy. By signing this policy, users are taking full responsibility for his/her use, and the user who is 18 or older or, in the case of a user under 18, the parent(s) or guardian(s) are agreeing to indemnify and hold the school, the District, the Data Acquisition Site that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the District and all of their administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any and all loss, costs, claims or damages resulting from the user's access to its computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods or services by the user. The user or, if the user is a minor, the user's parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to cooperate with the District in the event of the District's initiating an investigation of a user's use of his/her access to its computer network and the Internet, whether that use is on a District computer or on another computer outside the District's network.

VIII. UPDATES

Users, and if appropriate, the user's parents/guardians, may be asked from time to time to provide new or additional registration and account information or to sign a new policy, for example, to reflect developments in

the law or technology. Such information must be provided by the user (or his/her parents or guardian) or such new policy must be signed if the user wishes to continue to receive service. If after you have provided your account information, some or all of the information changes, you must notify the person designated by the District to receive such information.

IX. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1.Students need approval from the District Technology Coordinator or designee before subscribing to list serves, bulletin boards, or e-mailing lists.

2. Students are to take care of all equipment and should immediately report any damage during routine use to District personnel.

3. Students are not to participate in electronic chat room or bulletin board postings unless under the direct supervision of a teacher, and then only for educational purposes.

4. Students are not to share their passwords or account information with others, nor are they allowed to use another person's account to gain access to the network. In the event another student is using your account, you should notify District personnel immediately to get your account password changed.

5. Students may not install any software on District computers. Students are not permitted to download, copy or distribute District-owned software.

6. Students may not use personally owned software, gaming software. or participate in online interactive games.

7. E-mail:

A. Electronic mail is provided for the purpose of exchanging information consistent with the mission and educational objectives of the District.

B. Students may not send broadcast e-mails (send to more than 10 recipients simultaneously) or spam e-mail (annoying, junk e-mail for the sole purpose of being bothersome).

C. Network users must use the District-provided e-mail system exclusively for all e-mail transactions occurring on the District network.

D. Students may not send chain e-mails or other messages of mass distribution.

E. E-mail is subject to District review at any time.

X. PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

For purposes of this policy, these devices shall be defined as individually owned devices that can be connected to voice or data networks not provided by the District. Current examples of these devices include, but are not limited to cellular phones, smart phones and multi-media phones. Netbooks, notebook computers, IPODS and IPADS with commercially provided Internet access are also included in this definition. Upon approval from the building administrator a teacher may permit the use of a personal electronic communication device in the classroom if it is connected via wireless technology to the Bloom Vernon School District Network. Students shall not use personal electronic communication devices to talk, transmit or receive text, photographs or other electronic files except as described in the above exception during regular school hours.*

REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS shall be defined as “from the time the first school bus delivers students at the

school building until 5 minutes after the final dismissal of students from the school building".

1."SEXTING" The District prohibits the sending or forwarding of "sext" messages and retains the right to conduct personal searches, within the limits of the 4th Amendment, of personal communication devices on school property or at school events when it believes it has a credible basis to suspect that said devices may contain "sext" messages. Upon discovery of a "sext" message, the administrator shall contact the parent and local law enforcement immediately. Personal electronic communication devices containing "sext" messages shall be turned over to local law enforcement and the administrator shall follow the procedure recommended by local law enforcement to store a copy of the "sext" message. Forwarding of a "sext" message to other(s) shall be viewed as a form of harassment and disciplinary actions as described in the Anti-Harassment/Bullying Policy (JFCF and JFCF-R) shall apply. **Sexting** shall be defined as the sending of sexually explicit text and/or photographs to another person(s) via a text message.

XI. Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act of 2008

On August 21, 2011, the Federal Communication Commission released an amendment to the Children Internet Protection Act, which includes a provision of the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act of 2008. The FCC order (FCC 11-125) implements the "educating" requirements of the Protecting Children Act effective FY 2012, meaning any school MUST provide Internet Safety Policies that include "monitoring the online activities of minors and must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and cyber bulling awareness and response."

We will continue to monitor and filter our Internet content with our local filtering appliance, and pass our local filtering through our regional ITC (SCOCA).

Effective FY2013 Bloom Vernon Local Schools will adopt a K-12 curriculum to address Internet safety and bullying. Our curriculum will be based on resources from sources that will best meet the current and future needs of our students and staff. The curriculum will help our educators empower their students and the school community to be safe, responsible, and savvy as they navigate the digital world. Our curriculum will be based on three major topic strands with varying age appropriate subtopics, lessons, and strategies.

Topics:

A. Safety and Security

B. Digital Citizenship

C. Research and Information Literacy

Teacher or Home Room _____

STUDENT'S AGREEMENT

Every student in grade 3 or greater must read and sign below:

I have read and understand and agree to abide by the terms of the Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy of the Bloom Vernon Local School District. Should I commit any violation or in any way misuse my access to the School District's computer network and the Internet, I understand and agree that my access privilege may be revoked and School disciplinary action may be taken against me.

_____ _____

Student Name (PRINT CLEARLY) **Grade**

_____ _____

Student Signature **Date**

User (place an "X" in the correct blank): I am 18 or older _____ I am under 18 ____

If I am signing this Agreement when I am under 18, I understand that when I turn 18 this Agreement will continue to be in full force and effect, and I will continue to abide by the Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S RECEIPT

I have received a copy of the Bloom Vernon Local School Districts Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy relating to the student's access to the School District's computer network and the Internet.

_____ _____

Parent or Guardian Signature(s) **Date**

*****IF YOU DO NOT WISH FOR YOUR CHILD'S NAME OR PHOTO TO BE POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE OR SOCIAL MEDIA, PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IN WRITING WITH YOUR REQUEST, REQUESTING NO PICTURES BE POSTED ON THE INTERNET.***

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 (H.R. 4577, P.L. 106-554)
Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 254[h],[l])
Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F)