

## Northumberland County Public Schools Internet Acceptable Use Policy

In compliance with *Code of Virginia* §22.1-70.2, Northumberland County Public Schools recognize that the Internet is a valuable educational tool and student access to the schools' computer network is consistent with the goal of promoting excellence in education. The learning community supports the school system's vision of providing an environment to enable our students to become technologically literate and life-long learners. The Northumberland County School Board, administrators, teachers, and members of the community have equipped the schools with state of the art technology to help make the digital divide between rural communities and their urban and suburban counterparts a thing of the past. Access to high speed internet in the schools was made possible by the support of the community. As a result, the opportunities for resource sharing, collaboration, communication, intellectual challenges, critical thinking, and creative growth will be greatly improved. Along with the privilege of computer access, students are expected to demonstrate safety, ethics, and respect while using school computers, software, hardware, terminals, printers, servers, and any internal or external network.

Internet safety education will be integrated into the content areas in kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Age-appropriate lessons that focus on safety, security, and ethics will be imbedded in the curricula. Students will also be taught how to discern the validity of internet sources, understand copyright laws, and explore legal issues related to internet use. The school's internet security filters restrict student access to social networking sites and inappropriate material. However, your child may possibly come across material of adult content. The school system takes a **no tolerance** approach to accessing such material. Proper precautions should be taken by students when using the internet and they will be made aware of the appropriate steps to take if they encounter a problem. Students are expected to honor the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) or they may lose the privilege of internet access.

Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers of students will guide students toward appropriate materials. The following are not permitted on any district computer, district network, or the Internet:

- Sending, receiving, or displaying offensive messages, images, or materials
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others (cyber-bullying)
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another's password
- Trespassing in another person's folder, work, or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Using school resources and accounts to access services requiring payment
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Damaging hardware or software
- Misusing hardware or software
- Downloading programs using school computers

The items above should not be considered comprehensive. Other inappropriate actions not listed may also be considered unacceptable use of electronic communications. Disciplinary action may range from a reprimand to expulsion by school authorities and may be subject to local, state, federal, and international law. Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

We, the undersigned, have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Acceptable Use Policy for Northumberland County Public Schools. Please sign and return to school.

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

