

INTERNET USE

Purpose

Passaic Public Schools is committed to the use of the Internet in a responsible, efficient, courteous, and legal manner. Internet access and other online services, provided to students and teachers, offer a multitude of global resources. Our goal in providing these services is to enhance the educational development of our students.

Because the Internet is a dynamic environment, the information which will be available to students is constantly changing; therefore, it is impossible to predict with certainty what information students might locate. Just as the purpose, availability, and use of media materials does not indicate endorsement of their contents by the board and school officials, neither does making electronic information available to students imply endorsement of that content.

Goals

Teaching Environment: The Internet shall enhance the teaching environment for all teachers in Passaic Public Schools by expanding the information resources available to these teachers.

Curriculum Development: The Internet shall be available to serve the development of curricular activities of Passaic Public Schools in all subject areas and at all grade levels.

Access to Information: The Internet shall provide information services not currently available to the Passaic Public Schools.

Use

Passaic Public Schools students and staff use the Internet to participate in distance learning activities, to ask questions of and consult with experts, to communicate with students and individuals, and to locate material to meet their educational information needs. The use of Internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of privileges. Our educational staff have a professional responsibility to work together with parents/guardians to help students develop the intellectual skill needed to understand the difference between informational sources; to identify information appropriate to their age and developmental levels; and to evaluate and use information to meet their educational goals.

Expected Behavior

The use of the Internet is a privilege. Students and staff are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of Internet etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- A. Be polite.
- B. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
- C. Use appropriate language.

- D. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or other inappropriate language.
- E. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- F. Do not reveal your personal address or phone numbers of students or staff.
- G. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- H. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- I. All communications accessible via the network should be assumed to be property of Passaic Public Schools.
- J. You may not use or play online or interactive games via the network, unless it is part of a class assignment or project.
- K. You may not attempt to use or alter anyone else's network account. You may not break in or attempt to break in to other computer systems.
- L. You may not create or spread computer viruses. You may not destroy another person's data.
- M. Transmission or reception of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
- N. Users are responsible for ensuring all their accounts are secure, including logging off your account when not in use. Teachers may not disclose their own passwords to students or other staff. Students are to never give their passwords to someone else.

Consequences

Consequences for misuse/abuse of the Internet (depending on the severity of the situation, the disciplinary process may include combinations of the following consequences).

1. Warning
2. Loss of credit for the assignment
3. Loss of credit for the unit
4. Loss of privilege to use the Internet
5. Loss of computer privileges in the Passaic Public Schools
6. Referral to administration for discipline
7. Referral to authorities

Passaic Public Schools maintains certain policies with regard to the use and security of its systems. All users of our facilities are expected to be familiar with these policies.

Violations of these policies can lead to the suspension of computer usage privileges pending investigation of circumstances. Serious violations of these policies will be referred directly to the appropriate academic or outside authorities. Unauthorized use of district devices can be a

criminal offense. The penalties may be as severe as suspension or dismissal from the district and/or criminal prosecution.

Terms and Conditions

1. Unauthorized attempts to gain privileged access or access to any account not belonging to you on any district system is not permitted.
2. Individual accounts cannot be transferred to or used by another individual. Sharing passwords is not permitted.
3. Each user is responsible for all in matters pertaining to the proper use of their account. This includes choosing safe passwords and ensuring that file protections are set correctly.
4. No district systems may be used as a vehicle to gain unauthorized access to other systems.
5. No district system may be used through unauthorized remote access.
6. No district system may be used for unethical, illegal, or criminal purposes.
7. Any user who finds a possible security lapse on any district system is obliged to report it to the system administrators. Don't attempt to use the system under these conditions until the system administrator has investigated the problem.
8. Use of the district system for commercial uses, except by approved outside organizations, is strictly prohibited. Such prohibited uses include, but are not limited to, development of programs, data processing or computations for commercial use, and preparation and presentation of advertising material.
9. No district system may be used for sending nuisance messages such as jokes, cartoons, and obscene or harassing messages.
10. No district system may be used for playing computer games unless as an approved part of the curriculum.

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Second Reading: January 30, 2017
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