

Nicholas School Computer Network and Internet Use Agreement

Please Read this document carefully before signing.

Internet access is available to Nicholas School students and staff. The goal for use of the Internet for students and staff is to enhance educational opportunity beyond the classroom.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Users have access to:

- Electronic mail communication with people all over the world;
- Information and news from government agencies, other research institutions, other K-12 educational institutions, businesses and universities;
- Public domain software and shareware of all types
- Discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture to the environment etc.
- Access to the Library of Congress, many university and rare book libraries, and other general information sources.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Nicholas School is taking precautions to restrict access to disreputable materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all the materials and an industrious user may discover incorrect or disreputable information. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material inconsistent with the educational goals of Nicholas School.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Nicholas School user violates any of the provisions, his or her access could possibly be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates (s) the party (parties) has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand (s) their significance.

Internet – Terms and Conditions

1) Acceptable Use – The purpose of allowing Internet access is to support research and education in and among academic institutions by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Your use must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of Nicholas School. Use of other organizations' network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any US or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material that is protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is generally not accepted. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

2) Privileges – The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The administrator will deem what is inappropriate use and his/her decision is final. Also, the administrator may remove any user's ability to access the network or the Internet at any time for inappropriate use of the system.

3) Network Etiquette – You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
- b) Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities such as accessing restricted systems, introducing viruses into the network, and corrupting databases are strictly forbidden.
- c) Do not reveal your personal address or phone number nor the address or phone numbers of fellow students or colleagues. Do not arrange a face to face meeting with someone you "meet" on the Internet".
- d) Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to others' email. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- e) Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- f) All communications and information accessible via the network would be assumed to be private property unless noted otherwise.

4) Disclaimers – Nicholas School makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Nicholas School will not be responsible for any damages that you suffer. This included loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries. Mis-deliveries or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. Nicholas School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

5) Security – Security on any computer system is high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel that you can identify a security problem on the network or the Internet, you must notify an administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not ever use another individual's identification without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the network or the Internet as an administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network or the Internet.

6) Vandalism – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data or another user, Internet or any of the other networks that are connected to the Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

7) Updates – You, and if appropriate, your parents or guardians, may be asked from time to time to provide new or additional registration information or to sign a new acceptable use policy and agreement, for example, to reflect developments in the law or technology. You (or your parents or, guardian) must provide this information, or you (or your parent or guardian) must sign and properly return the new acceptable use policy and agreement if you wish to continue to receive service. If, after you have provided your basic account information, some or all of the information changes, you must notify the school principal.

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User – Every student, regardless of age, must read and sign below.

I understand and will abide by the above Internet Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action as outlined in the student handbook may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may occur.

User Name (please print):

User Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian

(If the user is under the age of 18 a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As the parent or guardian of the above-named user, I have read the Internet Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. Nicholas School has taken the precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I recognize that it is impossible for Nicholas School to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for material acquired on the network for illegal activities on the network by my child. Further, I accept full responsibility for the supervision when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give my permission for my child to have Internet Access and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print):

Signature: _____ Date: _____