STUDENT GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES

These guidelines are provided here so that students and parents are aware of the responsibilities student accept when they use district-owned computer hardware, operating system software, application software, stored text, data files, electronic mail, local databases, CD-ROMs, digitized information, communication technologies, and Internet access. Additionally, access to the Internet is provided to students through teachers for limited educational purposes, particularly specific class-related activities, as well as other educational and career or professional development activities, and other activities approved by teachers. In general, acceptable use requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of all technology resources.

1. Expectations

a. Student use of computers, other technology hardware, software, and computer networks, including the internet, is only allowed when supervised or when granted permission by a staff member.

b. All users are expected to follow existing copyright laws. Copyright guidelines are posted and/or available in the library of each campus as well as posted on the District Web site.

c. Students are expected to notify a staff member whenever they come across information or messages that are inappropriate, dangerous, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable.

d. Students who identify or know about a security problem are expected to convey the details to their teacher without discussing it with other students.

2. Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to the following*:

These guidelines do not attempt to list all required or proscribed behavior by students. A student's use of technology resources is regulated by the teacher and is subject to the supervision and discretion of the school, teachers, and any further restrictions placed on students' use by their parents or guardians, if such restrictions are communicated in writing to the school.

a. Using the network for illegal activities, including copyright, license, or contract violations or downloading inappropriate materials, viruses, and/or software, such as but not limited to hacking and host file sharing software.

b. Using the network for financial or commercial gain advertising, or political lobbying.

c. Accessing or exploring on-line locations or materials that do not support the curriculum and/or are inappropriate for school assignments, such as but not limited to pornographic sites, social networking sites (i.e. MySpace, Facebook, Xanga, etc.), as well as chat and/or blog sites.

d. Vandalizing and/or tampering with equipment, storage devices, programs, files, software, system performance, or other components of the network. Use or possession of hacking software is strictly prohibited.

e. Causing congestion on the network or interfering with the work of others, e.g., chain letters or broadcast messages to lists or individuals.

f. Intentionally wasting finite resources (i.e., on-line time, real-time music and/or video not for educational purpose).

g. Gaining unauthorized access anywhere on the network.

h. Revealing any identifying information of one's self or another person (i.e. telephone numbers, addresses, etc.).

i. Invading the privacy of other individuals.

j. Using another user's account, password, or ID card or allowing another user to access your account, password, or ID.

k. Coaching, helping, observing, or joining any unauthorized activity on the network.

l. Students may not initiate communications into the system from other computers (for example, home computers) that are inconsistent with the intended purposes of the system or with any of these Acceptable Use Guidelines.

m. Forwarding/distributing e-mail messages without permission from the author.

n. Posting anonymous messages or unlawful information on the system.

o. Engaging in sexual harassment or using objectionable language in public or private messages, e.g., racist, terroristic, abusive, sexually explicit, threatening, demeaning, stalking, or slanderous.

p. Falsifying permission, authorization, or identification documents.

q. Obtain copies of or modify files, data, or passwords belonging to other users on the network.

r. Engaging in plagiarism and/or copyright infringement. Students will properly attribute material they obtain through Internet Access and not infringe the copyrights of others.

s. Knowingly placing a computer virus on a computer or network.

t. Students may not encrypt communications or files, except as specifically authorized by a teacher.

u. Students may not alter the software or hardware configuration of the computer used for system access in any manner, or attempt to bypass security or filtering systems set in place by the school.

v. Students may not use personal communication and/or storage devices such as iPods, mp3/mp4 players, flash/pen drives, or cell phones which require a data connection to GISD technology resources.

w. Students may not use personal media with district technology resources (i.e. personal music CDs, DVDs, digital media players including, but not limited to iPods, cell phones and/or flash/pin drives containing audio or video)

3. Acceptable Use Guidelines Computer On-Line Services

a. General Guidelines

(1) Students will have access to all available forms of electronic media and communication which is in support of education and research and in support of the educational goals and objectives of the Gainesville Independent School District.

(2) Students are responsible for their ethical and educational use of the computer on-line services at the Gainesville Independent School District.

(3) All policies and restrictions of the GISD computer on-line services must be followed.

(4) Access to the GISD computer on-line services is a privilege and not a right. Each employee, student, and/or parent will be required to sign the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement Sheet and adhere to the Acceptable Use Guidelines in order to be granted access to GISD computer on-line services.

(5) The use of any GISD computer on-line services at the Gainesville Independent School District must be in support of education and research and in support of the educational goals and objectives of the Gainesville Independent School District.

(6) When placing, removing, or restricting access to specific databases or other GISD computer on-line services, school officials shall apply the same criteria of educational suitability used for other education resources.

(7) Transmission of any material which is in violation of any federal or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: confidential information, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, and computer viruses.

(8) Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of a computer, or the files of another user without the consent of the individual, campus administrator, or technology administrator, will be considered an act of vandalism and subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the GISD Student Code on Conduct.

(9) Any parent wishing to restrict their children's access to any GISD computer on-line services will provide this restriction request in writing. Parents will assume responsibility for imposing restrictions only on their own children.

b. Network Etiquette

(1) Be polite.

(2) Use appropriate language.

(3) Do not reveal any personal data (i.e. home address, phone number, phone numbers of other people).

(4) Remember that the other users of the GISD computer on-line services and other networks are human beings whose culture, language, and humor have different points of reference from your own.

c. E-Mail

(1) E-mail should be used for educational or administrative purposes only.

(2) E-mail transmissions, stored data, transmitted data, or any other use of the GISD computer on-line services by students, employees, or any other user shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated staff to ensure appropriate use.

(3) All e-mail and all contents are property of the Gainesville Independent School District.

4. Consequences

The student in whose name a system account and/or computer hardware is issued will be responsible at all times for its appropriate use.

Noncompliance with the guidelines published here in the Student Code of Conduct may result in suspension or termination of technology privileges and disciplinary actions. Use or possession of hacking software is strictly prohibited and violators will be subject to consequences of the Code of Conduct. Violations of applicable state and federal law, including the Texas Penal Code, Computer Crimes, Chapter 33 will result in criminal prosecution, as well as disciplinary actions by the District.

Electronic mail, network usage, and all stored files shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated District staff to ensure appropriate use.

The District cooperates fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to violations of computer crime laws. Contents of e-mail and network communications are governed by the Texas Open Records Act; proper authorities will be given access to their content.

5. Disclaimer of Warranty and Limitation of Liability

GISD makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, including, without limitation, those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any of the Internet services provided by GISD, including any information obtained through the Internet. This limitation of liability includes loss of data, service delays or interruptions, and is in addition to any other limitations of liability as may be provided by law. GISD specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through GISD Internet Access and E-mail services, or for access or receipt by Users of inappropriate content. Use of any information obtained through Internet Access and E-mail services is at the Participant and User's own risk.

6. Indemnification

Students and their parents or guardians agree to indemnify and hold the School, Teachers, GISD, and their affiliates, officers, agents, or other partners, and employees, **harmless from any claim or demand**, including reasonable attorneys' fees, due to or arising out of use or misuse of Internet Access by the User, or arising from any User's violation of these Acceptable Use Guidelines.

GAINESVILLE ISD ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

Student Section

_____
Student Name (print)

_____
Grade

_____
School

I have read the Student Acceptable Use Guidelines. I agree to follow the rules contained in this policy. If I violate the rules I will lose my access privilege to the GISD and may face other disciplinary action.

_____
Student Signature

_____
Date

Parent Section

I have read the Student Acceptable Use Guidelines. I understand that the Internet is a world-wide group of hundreds of thousands of computer networks. I agree that the Gainesville Independent School District does not control the content of these Internet networks. I understand if my child violates the Acceptable Use Guidelines, his or her access privilege to GISD technology resources will be revoked and he or she may be subject to disciplinary action. The Gainesville Independent School District has my permission to give access to GISD technology resources to my child. I understand that my child will maintain this privilege as long as the procedures described in the District Acceptable Use Guidelines are followed.

I also grant permission for examples of my child's schoolwork to be published on the World Wide Web as an extension of classroom studies, provided that the home address, home phone number, student's last name or a close-up photograph is not included.

Note: Parents who do not want their child to have Internet access and/or have their schoolwork published on the web, should submit this request in writing annually to their child's principal. While the District will attempt to restrict access, it is ultimately the responsibility of the parent to ensure their child does not violate this request.

_____
Parent or Guardian signature

_____
Date

_____
Parent name (print)

_____
Home address

_____
Phone