

# Lockport School District 91

## STUDENT USE OF COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET PERMISSION FORM

In making decisions regarding student access to the Internet, School District 91 considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Electronic information research skills are now fundamental to preparation of citizens and future employees. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, bulletin boards, and other resources around the world. The District expects that faculty will blend thoughtful use of the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in its use. As much as possible, access from school to Internet resources should be structured in ways which point students to those which have been evaluated prior to use. While students will be able to move beyond those resources to others that have not been previewed by staff, they shall be provided with guidelines and lists of resources particularly suited to learning objectives.

Outside of school, families bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive media.

Students utilizing District-provided Internet access must first have the permission of and must be supervised by School District 91's professional staff. Students utilizing school-provided Internet access are responsible for good behavior on-line just as they are in a classroom or other area of the school. The same general rules for behavior and communications apply.

The purpose of District-provided Internet access is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. To remain eligible as users, students' use must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of School District 91. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

School District 91 is pleased to offer students access to a computer network for the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the form below. Should a parent prefer that a student not have Internet access, use of the computers is still possible for more traditional purposes such as word processing and presentation design.

### **What is possible?**

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communication with other Internet users around the world. Although School District 91 subscribes to an Internet content filtering service, families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet still may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purposes of the school are to use Internet resources for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

### **What is expected?**

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with District standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The students are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

## What are the rules?

Privacy -- Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review communications to maintain system integrity and insure that students are using the system responsibly.

Storage capacity -- Users are expected to remain within allocated disk space and delete materials which take up excessive storage space.

Illegal copying -- Students should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives, disks, or computer desktops unless they have written permission from the Network Administrator. Nor should students copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

Inappropriate materials or language -- No profane, abusive, impolite or threatening language should be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. A good rule to follow is never view, send, or access materials which you would not want your teachers and parents to see. Should students encounter such material by accident, they should report it to their teacher immediately.

## Succinct Advice

These are guidelines to follow to prevent the loss of network privileges at School District 91.

1. Do not use a computer to harm other people or their work.
2. Do not damage the computer or the network in any way.
3. Do not interfere with the operation of the network by installing / downloading any software, shareware, freeware, or non-school related materials.
4. Do not violate copyright laws.
5. Do not view, send, or display offensive messages or pictures.
6. Do not share your password with another person.
7. Do not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.
8. Do not trespass in another's folders, work, or files.
9. Use computers to access school related content only.
10. Notify an adult immediately, if by accident, you encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use.

**BE PREPARED to be held accountable for your actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated.**

**PARENT PERMISSION FORM and USER AGREEMENT**

As a parent or guardian of a student at School, I have read the above information about the appropriate use of computers at the school and I understand this agreement will be kept on file at the school. (Questions should be directed to the principal for clarification.) I also understand that this agreement will be in effect for the length of time my child is enrolled in District 91 schools. Parents/Guardians have a right to change the Internet choice for their student if submitted in writing to the building principal.

**Please Check One:**

\_\_\_\_\_ My child may use the Internet while at school according to the rules outlined.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would prefer that my child not use the Internet while at school.

Parent Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

As a user of the School computer network, I agree to comply with the above stated rules and to use the network in a constructive manner.

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(or parent signature, if student is unable to sign)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_