

Grapeland Independent School District

Internet Safety Policy

The Ethics of General Technology Use

Computers, networks, and telephony systems put enormous power at the fingertips of all users; however, they also place responsibilities on all users. Ethical questions surrounding computers and the networks are no different than those in other spheres of our lives. GISD staff members shall report to the principal any incidents of unauthorized or unacceptable access or use, including names of those responsible, if known. The following statements of computer ethics are to be adhered to by all technology users in GISD.

1. All files and programs on the computer belong to someone. Users shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's files or programs. All files should be saved to the user's personal directory (I:\ drive) or a floppy disk (A:\).
2. Users shall not authorize anyone else to use their username, password, or files for any reason. Because the user is responsible for all logins under his/her name, unique passwords should be set by the user and not shared with anyone.
3. The user is responsible for remembering his/her own password. The system administrator will change it one time without re-course; after that, detentions will be assigned.
4. Users shall not use GISD computers, networks, or telephony system for any purposes other than legitimate learning purposes. Users also must not use a computer for unlawful purposes, such as the illegal copying, installation, or storage of software.
5. Users shall not attempt to discover another user's password, either at GISD locally or at a remote location.
6. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software provided by GISD, teachers, or another student without permission from a GISD administrator/designee.
7. Users shall not illegally copy copyrighted software provided by GISD, an instructor, or any other source. Note that, except as noted in the Copyright Notice at the end of any software documentation, it is generally illegal to copy any software which has a copyright. The use of illegally copied software is considered a criminal offense and is subject to criminal prosecution.
8. Users shall not intentionally write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan Horse, or some similar name.
9. Users shall not deliberately use the computer to annoy or harass others with unacceptable, language, image, or threats. Users also shall not deliberately access any unacceptable, obscene, or objectionable information, language or images.
10. Users shall not intentionally misuse systems resources, or allow others to misuse system resources.
11. Users shall not tamper with the computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by a GISD Administrator/Designee. This includes, but is not limited to, changes to the desktop or computer setting.

Computer Network Rules

The purpose of installing Local Area Networks (LANs), setting up the Wide Area Network (WAN), and provide access to the Internet is to advance and promote education in Grapeland Independent School District. The WAN, with its access to the Internet, is intended to assist in the collaboration and exchange of information between and among schools, regional education service centers, and other worldwide educational entities. All GISD users must understand that access to and usage of the GISD Network is a privilege, and should be treated as such.

GISD expects users to have consideration for the personal and material rights of others. In other words, bullying others, destroying property, and stealing from others are totally unacceptable behaviors.

It should be obvious that obtaining a password or rights to another's directory or files on the network is a form of theft just as real as using a stolen key to enter someone's home. Taking advantage of another user who inadvertently leaves a computer without logging out is that type of theft.

GISD restricts all types of electronic mail usage by students. No student will use either type of electronic mail, which includes, but is not limited to, email, bulletin boards, and chat rooms.

Another issue is the use and transfer of stolen (some call it "pirated") software. Commercial software is copyrighted and each purchaser must abide by the licensing agreement published with the software. There is no justification for the use of illegally obtained software. Users should expect this to be handled as a disciplinary matter.

General Guidelines For The Use Of The Internet

After this document has the required signatures agreeing to the Acceptable Use of the Network, GISD students have access to the Internet and the ability to access computers at various locations throughout the school district. Again, students must understand this is a privilege and should be treated as such. As a new privilege, this brings new responsibilities and risks. The Internet is intended as an educational resource to enrich school experiences for all GISD users. In order for users to benefit from this resource, it is necessary that they learn acceptable use of the Internet. All students who use the Internet must have received instruction of appropriate uses and acceptable Internet behavior. GISD staff will hold students accountable for their behavior when accessing the Internet.

When using the Internet through GISD's connection, users are representatives of GISD. In that role, users must conduct themselves in a way that is not hurtful to others or their property. It is not permissible for students to use any type of email, message board, or chat room; therefore posting any type of harassing messages on public spaces or in private email is prohibited. Users are also prohibited from sending messages under the name of another or anonymously. It is not permissible to use GISD connection to attempt to circumvent the security provisions of another computer on the Internet. It is not permissible to access or use any unacceptable, obscene, or objectionable information, language, or images. In short, all of the restrictions described on the first page of this Acceptable Use Policy also apply to the use of computers across the Internet. Violations of these rules may result in suspension of network privileges.

Although the Internet is a valuable and useful educational tool, there are also risks involved. GISD has implemented an Internet Filtering System to block inappropriate or objectionable sites. However, there may be occasions when it fails to block sites that may be deemed inappropriate. When those sites are brought to the attention of the GISD Network Administrator, they will be added to the Internet Filtering System and will be blocked from that time on.

Monitored Use

Electronic mail transmissions and other use of the electronic communications system by students and employees shall not be considered private. Designated District staff shall be authorized to monitor such communication at any time to ensure appropriate use

Consequences

Violation of GISD's policies and procedures concerning the use of computers and networks will result in the same disciplinary actions that would result from similar violations in other areas of GISD life. Any or all of the following consequences may be employed:

1. Loss of computer privileges/Internet access, with length of time to be determined by the administrator/designee.
2. Any campus based disciplinary consequences, including suspension as deemed appropriate by the administrator/designee.
3. Expulsion may be considered in flagrant violations that blatantly corrupt the educational value of computers or the Internet, or in instances when students have used GISD Internet access to violate the law or to compromise another computer network. Any violations that fall into this category must first be reviewed by a committee chaired by the GISD Technology Director.

* This list is not all-inclusive. Any other acts deemed as vandalism by responsible parties will also result in disciplinary action.

**This contract may be changed and/or amended at any time to best serve the district.



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As the Parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet Safety Policy Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. I also recognize that it is impossible for Grapeland Independent School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

(Print User's Name)

Grade Level

USER'S SIGNATURE

DATE

(Parent or Guardian's Name)

PARENT OR GUARDIANS' SIGNATURE