

Internet Acceptable Use Policy

The Port Huron Area School District has the capability of offering Internet access to its students. Access to the Internet enables students to exchange electronic mail messages with other users and explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards throughout the world. Use of the Internet and other on-line information services is a privilege extended to students, faculty, and staff to enhance learning opportunities. Although the Internet offers valuable resources and opportunities for learning, some material accessible on-line may be illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. Internet content deemed as obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors, is filtered. Although filters are in place, some inappropriate sites may be accessible. Upon discovery, these sites should be reported to administration and the technology department so that they can be blocked. Use of the Internet and other on-line services in the Port Huron Area School District is restricted to activities which support District educational goals and objectives; misuse may result in disciplinary action.

The Port Huron Area School District has made computer networks, including the Internet, available to all students and staff in an effort to support the District's mission and goals. The District believes that computer technology and its use can enhance and improve learning in the classroom. All online activity initiated by staff is monitored indirectly by teachers and is electronically logged by the technology department. The District respects each family's right to decide whether or not to allow their child access to the Internet and other on-line information services. Parents who do not want their child to have access to the Internet are required to notify the building principal in writing (must request and use appropriate form). Building principals at the elementary level shall notify parents of this option along with the guidelines below. The following guidelines have been established regarding the Internet and other online services:

1. Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks, just as they are in classrooms and school hallways.
2. Port Huron Area School District administrators will deem what is inappropriate use of the Internet and other on-line information services, and their decisions are final.
3. The administration, faculty, and staff of the Port Huron Area School District may deny, revoke, or suspend student access accounts for inappropriate use of the Internet and other on-line information services.
4. The Port Huron Area School District reserves the right to review any material stored in files and may edit or remove any material which the staff, in its sole discretion, believes may be unlawful, obscene, abusive or otherwise objectionable.
5. Transmission of any material in violation of U.S. or state regulations, including copyrighted, threatening, or obscene materials, is prohibited.
6. Use for commercial activities by for-profit organizations, product promotion, political lobbying or illegal activities is prohibited.
7. The following uses of the Internet and other on-line information services are not permitted (includes text messaging) and may result in disciplinary action:
 - a. Sending, receiving, printing or displaying any media that is obscene or harmful to minors, or which contains child pornography or offensive messages or pictures (includes "sexting").
 - b. Using obscene language.
 - c. Harassing, bullying, insulting or threatening others.
 - d. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
 - e. Violating copyright laws.
 - f. Using another person's account and/or password.
 - g. Giving your account and/or password to another person.

Internet Acceptable Use Policy - Page 2

- h. Cheating or trespassing in another person's folders, work or files.
 - i. Intentionally wasting limited resources.
 - j. Employing the network for commercial purposes.
 - k. Divulging personal information about yourself or others to strangers. This includes address, telephone number, credit card numbers, passwords or other confidential information.
 - l. Using proxy servers or other means to circumvent District filters.
8. Using, attempting to use, storing and/or downloading programs which, by their nature, are generally used for illegal or unethical purposes. For example, software used for cracking or hacking, software used for obtaining passwords, software used to create and/or modify viruses, worms, Trojan horses, software designed to monopolize servers or network services, etc.
9. Out of school conduct that significantly impacts the day-to-day educational environment may result in school consequences.

Social Media Guidelines for Students

Due to the wealth of new social media tools available to students, student products and documents have the potential to reach audiences far beyond the classroom. This translates into a greater level of responsibility and accountability for everyone. Below are guidelines that students in the Port Huron Area School District should adhere to when using these tools in the classroom.

1. Be aware of what you post online. Social media venues are very public. What you contribute leaves a footprint for all to see. Do not post anything you wouldn't want friends, enemies, parents, teachers, or a future employer to see.
2. Follow the school's code of conduct when writing online. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions, however, do it in a respectful way. Make sure that criticism is constructive and not hurtful. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.
3. Be safe online. Never give out your personal information, including, but not limited to, your last name, phone number, address, exact birthdate and picture. Do not share your password with anyone besides your teacher and parents.
4. Linking to other websites to support your thoughts and ideas is recommended. However, be sure to read the entire article prior to linking to ensure that all information is appropriate for a school setting.
5. If you run across inappropriate material that makes you feel uncomfortable, or is not respectful, tell your teacher right away.

Reminder: Violations will result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action as appropriate.

We will **advocate** for our students and families in partnership with our community to assure their success inside and outside of school; continuously **innovate** our practices and programs to improve student achievement; and **educate** in ways that are relevant, relationship driven, and rigorous.