

NORTHBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

Internet Use

The Internet is a vast computer network full of wonderful educational experiences. However, there are some parts of the Internet that are not appropriate for education and, therefore, the Northbridge Public Schools will teach students to use the Internet safely by following the guidelines listed below. Teachers and staff who use the Internet will follow the same guidelines to model appropriate use while protecting themselves and school property. A summary of the guidelines will be included in student handbooks with a reference to the full copy, which shall be posted on the District website.

At the preschool and primary grade levels, students may only use the Internet alongside an adult. Students in grades 3-5 may only be given accounts to access pre-approved Internet websites, and older students in Middle School and High School may be assigned accounts to access the Internet directly. Anyone accessing the Internet through the District's computers and networks must first return a signed Internet Safety Contract. This shall be done when a student enrolls, or reaches grade 3, or when an employee is hired, and will remain in effect until that person leaves the District.

Internet access will be provided with filtering software designed to identify and prohibit access to sites that educators believe contain inappropriate material for students. It is important to remember, however, that no system is perfect and that the possibility always exists for some inappropriate materials to get through.

Ultimately, everyone must take responsibility for their own actions and take the necessary steps to protect themselves. Therefore, anyone found repeatedly or intentionally visiting objectionable, problematic, or inappropriate sites will have his or her Internet privileges revoked.

Internet Safety Guidelines

Anyone accessing the Internet in the Northbridge Public Schools shall not use the Internet to:

- access material that is obscene; harmful to minors, hardware, software or networks; or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
- engage in "hacking" or attempts to otherwise compromise system security.
- engage in any illegal, commercial, or active political activities.
- disclose or post personal information, such as last name, age, sex, school, address, or phone number.
- download files, which can jeopardizes the health of the network by introducing a computer virus and using large amounts of disk space, without the prior consent of the technology staff. This includes screensavers, games, and other programs such as "Weatherbug".

Report any misuse or abuse

Anyone with knowledge of abuse, inappropriate use, or any failure to follow any of these guidelines shall report this to a teacher or administrator as soon as possible. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in loss of school-provided access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be contacted.

The Northbridge Public School District is committed to providing secure and error-free computing and Internet access and cannot be held responsible for any loss or damages resulting from technical or other difficulties. The Northbridge Public School District reserves the right to change these guidelines.

Northbridge Public School District

Internet Safety Contract – For Minors

I, _____, and _____,
(print minor's name) (print parent or guardian's name)

the parent/guardian of this minor, have read and understood the Internet Safety Policy and agree to adhere to all the guidelines listed. We realize that inappropriate behavior may lead to penalties including loss of computer privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action. Further, we understand that there is a potential to access information on the Internet that is inappropriate for school-age children or young adults. Every reasonable effort will be made on the part of the faculty and staff of the Northbridge Public School District to supervise student access to such information; my son/daughter is ultimately responsible for restricting himself/herself from accessing inappropriate information. We release the Northbridge Public School District from any liability or damages that may result from the use of its computers, software, and networks. As a computer user, I accept full responsibility and liability for the results of my personal actions.

Student's Signature _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____



Northbridge Public School District

Internet Safety Contract

I, _____
(print name)

have read and understood the Internet Safety Policy and agree to adhere to all the guidelines listed. I understand that there is a potential to access information on the Internet that is inappropriate for school-age children or young adults. Every reasonable effort will be made on the part of the faculty and staff of the Northbridge Public School District to supervise student access to such information; ultimately I am responsible for restricting myself from accessing inappropriate information. I realize that inappropriate behavior may lead to penalties including loss of computer privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action. I release the Northbridge Public School District from any liability or damages that may result from the use of its computers, software, and networks. As a computer user, I accept full responsibility and liability for the results of my personal actions.

Signature _____ Date _____