

# **St. Nicholas Catholic School**

## **Internet Acceptance Use Policy and Guidelines**

### **What Is the Internet?**

The Internet technology began in the 1960's with the Department of Defense who used it to compete in the space race. Today, the Internet is available to any computer user in the world. The Internet is a communications highway connecting databases and computers whose users are able to access and share information. Students and teachers at St. Nicholas have access to many curriculum related resources. Listed below are examples of the types of information that may be accessed:

1. Electronic mail communication with people all over the world.
2. Information from libraries, scientists, authors, politicians, and museums etc.
3. Discussion groups on a wide range of topics such as culture and the environment.
4. Videos and music from libraries, museums etc.
5. Research to gather information from the World Wide Web and Navigational software.

### **Security and Privileges**

With access to computers and people all over the world, also comes the availability of information and material on the Internet that would not be considered of educational value in the context of a school setting. St. Nicholas School will take precautions to restrict access to the Internet with proper supervision and implementation of this user's policy. Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and the teacher may review or examine all student files and communications to maintain integrity to the school and student. The school retains the right to edit any material in a student's computer file that is not related to the educational purposes of the school.

### **Educational Philosophy**

Part of the mission at St. Nicholas School is to promote academic and personal growth of students. Technology is available at St. Nicholas to enable students to enhance their learning opportunities by fostering a positive attitude for lifelong learning. Technology has become integrated into the curriculum so students can access, explore, communicate and learn information effectively.

### **Responsibility of St. Nicholas School**

1. To notify parents through this user's policy that his/her child will have access to Internet services.
2. To make this Internet user policy and procedures available for review by parents, guardians, staff members, and members of the community.
3. To provide in this user policy, descriptions of inappropriate Internet use and consequences for inappropriate use.
4. To supervise students using the Internet services when accessing or transmitting information for educational purposes.
5. To prohibit access to the Internet for any reason other than for educational purposes.
6. To notify students of their responsibilities and that Internet use must comply with the school's educational philosophy and all local state and federal laws.

### **Responsibility of the Student**

1. To use the Internet as a tool for learning. Accessing information, exploring for information and transmitting of information must have an educational purpose and directly related to the school's curriculum and educational philosophy.
2. To obtain the permission of the teacher or staff member before accessing the Internet.
3. To follow general classroom and computer lab rules.
4. To comply with all local, state, and federal laws.

**Responsibility of the Parents or Guardians**

1. To encourage proper use of the Internet by their children.
2. To be aware of this user policy for Internet use.
3. To understand that computer storage/files may be reviewed, examined and edited at anytime to insure compliance with school policies.
4. To pay for any Internet services your child accesses without permission of school personnel.

**Inappropriate Uses and Consequences**

The following activities will not be permitted when accessing the Internet or any other telecommunications network.

1. Accessing, sending, or displaying offensive, obscene, harassing, insulting or attacking messages, pictures, videos, audios or other forms of inappropriate communications,
2. Trespassing on the other rights of users by falsifying user identities, sharing, using or displaying account numbers or passwords.
3. Damaging or disabling files, computer, related equipment or the work of others.
4. Using the Internet for non-educational purposes.
5. Violating copyright laws.

Misuse in any form will not be tolerated. Violation may result in loss of Internet privileges, detention, restitution for monetary damages, and/or suspension. In extreme cases legal action will be pursued and families will be held liable for any damages incurred.

Please indicate acceptance of the St. Nicholas School Acceptable Use Policy, cut off and return to your child's homeroom teacher. If you do not want your child to use the Internet at school, please still fill out the form, but mark a large "NO" overtop of the writing on the form.

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Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have read, understand and will comply with the Internet Use Policy and guidelines for St. Nicholas School and hereby give my/our permission for the student to participate in school sanctioned Internet activities.

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(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)