



Acceptable Use of Technology Policy

Internet access is available to students at Highlander Charter School. The internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to students. Our goal in providing Internet access to students and teachers is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. Please read this document carefully. All students must turn in an Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) to be kept on file for lab classes and general use of computers and the Internet. Students who have not returned the signed form will not be allowed to use the computers or the Internet.

With access to computers and people all over the world comes the availability of materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Highlander Charter School has taken precautions to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information. Nevertheless, we believe that the valuable information and interaction accessible on the Internet far outweighs the possibility that users may access inappropriate material.

It is essential for each user to recognize his or her responsibility in having access to the vast services, sites, systems, and people that are located on the Internet. As a user, your son or daughter is ultimately responsible for his or her actions in accessing the Internet services. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. This privilege may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct. Below, but not limited to, are examples of behavior resulting in the loss of Internet privileges:

1. Giving out personal information, including – but not limited to – name, address, age, sex, telephone number and e-mail address.
2. Playing games on the Internet without permission.
3. Changing or adding passwords and settings that can adversely effect the operation of the computer.
4. Issues of plagiarism. (copying word for word)
5. Trespassing in other people's files.
6. Using the Internet for illegal activities such as accessing or processing pornographic materials.
7. Using someone's name or password without his or her permission.
8. Using the Internet for personal e-mail, instant messenger or chat rooms.
9. Using the Internet to harm others, i.e. bullying, hate mail, discriminatory remarks, and any other antisocial behavior.
10. Creating web sites that contain inappropriate content.
11. Using the Internet to send or receive pornographic material.
12. Interfering with other students or adults computer files.
13. Vandalism including willful destruction or abuse of hardware, software, data and network integrity of the network or Internet and the harmful spreading of viruses.
14. Downloading or uploading files to computers without permission.
15. Untruthfully accessing sites restricted by age such as MySpace or similar.
16. Making school specific passwords public.

As a parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Highlander Charter School Acceptable Use Policy. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. However, I also recognize it is impossible for Highlander Charter School to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network.

I hereby give permission to (student's name) _____ to use the school's computers and the Internet.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

As the user of the Network, I understand and abide by the Highlander Charter School Acceptable Use of Technology Policy. I also understand that any violation of this policy may result in: Loss of school internet use privilege, school disciplinary action and/or prosecution under applicable state or federal laws.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____