

St. Joseph's Technology Agreement

Terms of Computer and Internet Use by Students

The purpose of this document is to provide the terms and conditions under which the students of St. Joseph's Catholic School are allowed the use of electronic computers as well as access to the internet on school premises.

St. Joseph's Catholic School has actively pursued making advanced technology and increased access to learning opportunities available to our students and staff. As such, wireless access to the Internet is possible throughout the school.

Students, parents, and staff should be warned that some material accessible through the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Students, staff, and volunteers in the classrooms must understand and practice proper ethical use. This is particularly important to us because we are a Catholic community whose mission and philosophy facilitates "...the ideal that children can grow closer to God in an environment where loving concern and respect are a daily experience and where academic excellence is the standard. As a school, we strive to provide each student with support and stimulation in order to foster continued growth of spirit, mind, and body."

While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students, staff, and volunteers must always be aware of the broader goal to "...empower individuals to utilize their spiritual, moral, and intellectual talents in order to function in the world around them". We believe the benefits to our students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. St. Joseph's Catholic School recognizes that commercial barriers are only partially "safe" and cannot provide absolute certainty that our students cannot reach Internet sites that are inappropriate and unhealthy.

Ultimately, parents and guardians of our students are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

Students are responsible for good behavior on school devices, just as they are in a classroom, hallway, or on the playground. Student use of the Internet must be in support of education and research, and consistent with the educational objectives of St. Joseph's Catholic School. Use of other organizations' network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

The following uses of school-provided Internet access are specifically not permitted:

1. to access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material, or other material that is disruptive to the teacher-learning environment. Chat rooms are off limits to students.
2. to violate any local, state, or federal statute.
3. to vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization.
4. to access another person's or organization's materials, information, or files without the implied or direct permission of that person or organization.
5. to violate copyright laws.
6. to use for unauthorized commercial activity and/or financial gain of the user.
7. to wastefully use the network or print resources.
8. to freely search the web. Only pre-approved, bookmarked websites may be accessed by students.
9. to access non-educational sites by students.

Network Etiquette

Students of St. Joseph's Catholic School are expected to follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Adult supervision is required for any student device use.
2. Students must log in under their own name each time they use a device.
3. Be polite and use appropriate language.
4. Do not send or display offensive messages or pictures.
5. Do not harass, insult, or attack others.
6. Do not reveal your personal address or telephone number, or those of other students
7. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network
8. Do not play games or use the computer resources for other non-academic activities
9. Do not damage devices, computer systems, computer networks, or engage in other acts of vandalism. This includes, but is not limited to, uploading or creating computer viruses.
10. Do not intentionally waste limited resources, such as paper and printer cartridges.
11. Do not use another user's password to gain access to the network or Internet.
12. Do not trespass into another user's files.
13. No Chat Rooms or Instant Messaging may be used by students.

St. Joseph's Catholic School specifically disclaims any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through the Internet. All users need to consider the source of any information they obtain and consider how valid that information may be.

Students may only access the Internet under supervision of a school employee or designee.

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege. St. Joseph's Catholic School reserves the right to review any material in user files and to monitor file server space. Decisions by the St. Joseph's administration regarding unacceptable device use are final. A student's use of the Internet may be revoked, denied, or suspended at the request of faculty and staff of St. Joseph's School.