

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCESS

INTERNET ACCESS FOR STUDENTS

To ensure that all students understand their responsibilities when using the Internet, the following regulations have been established:

Usage

- Student use of the Internet is only authorized to support classroom assignments and to supplement classroom learning and other educational purposes approved by staff members.
- Various services on the Internet such as chat rooms, bulletin boards, newsgroups, and games must be used in accordance with the District curriculum.
- Students must be accountable for what they post online. This is especially important for social media, where friends, parents, teachers or future employers can see what is being posted. Information shared online may be posted in perpetuity, may be impossible to retrieve or eradicate, and may be forwarded or endlessly shared.
- Students must follow school rules when writing online. Conduct considered inappropriate in the classroom is similarly inappropriate online.

Supervision

- Students in grades K-5 will not be provided with independent Internet access. Work on the Internet at the elementary level will take place only in a structured educational setting under the supervision of a staff member.
- Students in grades 6-12 will only be allowed independent Internet access with parental consent; absent such parental permission, a student may not access the Internet without supervision.

Access to Inappropriate Material

- Students will not use the Internet to access or transmit material that is profane, obscene, adult-oriented, or advocates illegal acts, violence or discrimination towards other people.
- Students who mistakenly access inappropriate information must immediately leave the site.
- The District reserves the right to determine what material it considers to be inappropriate.

Social Media and Social Networking Sites

To accommodate new communication paradigms and tools and remain at the forefront of preparing students for the future, educators can/will explore new and emerging technologies to supplement the range of services they currently offer to their respective stakeholders.

Among the newest tools available to students are social media and social networking sites.

Social networking sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.) are Websites or online communities that connect people through social and other networks.

Social networking sites (SNS) often include a range of communication platforms, including, but not limited to, creation of profiles, blogs, discussion boards, instant messaging and file sharing (sharing of text, photos, video, etc.).

SNS have great potential to connect people across the globe and enhance communication; however, they are also more informal, less structured, and still emerging. Students should not underestimate the power and speed of social media. Irreparable damage can result from certain social media postings in very short time frames. These regulations are designed to establish some basic parameters.

Social Media Age Requirements

- There are different parameters based on the age and/or grade level of the student.
- Students in grades kindergarten through three (3) will not have any access to social media.
- Students in grades four (4) or higher, but younger than thirteen (13) years old, may have access to social media with supervision.
- Beginning on the date they attain age thirteen (13) through twelfth grade, students may be granted independent access to social media for instructional purposes.

Children's Internet Protection Act

- These basic regulations have been created in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- CIPA is a federal law that Congress created to address issues and concerns about access to offensive content over the Internet on school and library computers.

Children's Internet Protection Act (Cont'd.)

- According to CIPA, minors are individuals who have not yet reached the age of 17. District standards, based on CIPA, will allow access to social media with or without supervision starting in eighth grade.

Safety and Security

- Students will not post personal contact information about themselves or provide their password to another person. Personal contact information may include, but may not be limited to: address, telephone number, school address or passwords.
- Students must promptly disclose to a teacher, counselor, or administrator any message or information they received that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Students will not post private information about another person.
- Students shall conduct themselves in the “virtual” or online world of social networking sites just as they would in all face-to-face interactions, namely treating others with dignity and respect and observing all other established standards of professional conduct.
- Students must acknowledge and agree that when they create or post material on the District social networking sites that they are in effect “content publishers” and as such are subject to a host of ethical and legal obligations including, but not limited to, compliance with the federal Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Reporting Requirements

- These regulations apply, but are not limited to, Web pages, social networking sites, message boards, podcasts, and blogs.
- Students shall report known or suspected violations of the District's EIN Access Policy and Regulations to a teacher or administrator.
- If students encounter inappropriate material that is disrespectful or makes them feel uncomfortable in any way, a teacher or administrator should be notified immediately.

Agreement for Students

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the EIN Access Policy and Regulations for Pittsford Central Schools. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. The PCSD makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the EIN service it provides. Use of any information obtained via the EIN or Internet is at users' own risk. Users must be aware that there are many services available on the Internet that might be offensive to certain groups or individuals. Although the District has adopted technology protection measures, it cannot eliminate access to all Internet services. Individual users are responsible for their own actions in using the EIN or Internet. As a result, I will not hold the District, its employees or agents responsible for materials and or information a student may obtain from the network. Further, I release the District, its employees and agents from any and all claims or damages of any nature arising from the student's use of, or inability to use, the EIN.

I hereby give permission for my child to access the Internet and EIN at school and certify that:

- **I have discussed the Electronic Information Network Internet Access Policy and Regulations for Pittsford Central Schools with my child.**
- **My child understands that he/she is responsible for the appropriate use of this privilege and is aware of the consequences of inappropriate use, including termination of access privileges and other disciplinary action.**
- **The information contained on this form is correct and signing this form constitutes my permission for continuing Internet access unless specifically revoked in writing by me, as parent or guardian.**

Student's last name: _____

Student's first name: _____

Student's middle initial: _____

School building: _____

Grade: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print): _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____