

August 3, 2009

Dear Parents,

Our district is extremely fortunate that our community has provided a rich base of technology resources for student learning and for teacher instruction. To keep up with the technology, the Network Acceptable Use Policy has undergone an update to include the more recent innovations and tools available to schools and on the Internet.

As you know this access is a significant responsibility for students. It is important that you and your student read and discuss the attached policy, guidelines, and Network Consent Form before signing it and returning it to your school. Inappropriate use of network resources will result in loss of access to computers and the network and other disciplinary action as appropriate as provided in District policy and procedures. Stress to your student the importance of maintaining privacy of personal information including any passwords, as your student is responsible for any and all activity in or from his/her account.

All Internet content is filtered governed by FERPA and by direction of the Internet Content Advisory Committee. Please help your student understand the rules for his/her use of these resources. Despite filters and firewalls there is still unacceptable and controversial material and communications that students could access. It is also not possible for all students to be directly supervised at all times and it is also not possible to filter all material posted on the Internet to which some families may object, depending upon the age of their student and their own family values. We therefore suggest that you discuss your family expectations of your student while using these publicly provided resources for learning.

Finally please take the opportunity to discuss with your student issues such as cyberbullying, intellectual property and copyright, and to alert your student that no file/picture/text sent out to the Internet is private but can be shared with anyone with access anywhere in the world. Helping students understand these issues can help protect them in this increasingly technology dependent world and enable them to use and understand the computers and network to best advantage for their education. An excellent resource is the Cyber Safety Brochure which can be found on the Family Resources, Parent Education page of the Issaquah School District website: <http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/family/parented.aspx> and on the OSPI website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SafetyCenter/ConductDiscipline/default.aspx>.



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