WAPPINGERS | Empower Challenge Grow
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Art Schouten • Director of Instructional Technology, Data, Assessment and Technology Education
25 Corporate Park Drive • P.O. Box 396 • Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 • (845) 298-5000 x40180 • Fax (845) 896-1973

Computer Use Background Information

The Wappingers Central School District is committed to providing quality educational services to our staff, students, and school community. As part of these services, the District may provide staff and students with access to district computer-based devices and related services. The access to or use of district devices is intended for the purposes of education, school business, school operations, teaching, learning, and duties. This includes, but is not limited to: the Internet, including online services and electronic communications; hardware, such as computers; software; networks; information systems; electronic/digital files; and store of data/information.

The Board of Education's policies and procedures regarding the acceptable use of district computer systems place an obligation on both the district and the students and staff that use its technology. (The Board's computer use policies are in part 4526 of the district's Policy Manual. The entire manual is on the BoardDocs part of the district's website [http://www.boarddocs.com/ny/wcsd/Board.nsf]. Once there, click "Enter Public Site" and then the "Policies" link at the top of the next page.)

The district makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, for the district devices or the access provided. Furthermore, the District assumes no responsibility for the quality, availability, accuracy, nature, or reliability of the material or information provided on district devices.

Acceptable use of district devices is for the purpose relating to a user's status with the District. This guideline does not attempt to articulate all acceptable uses of district devices and related services. In addition, it is not the intention of this guideline to define all inappropriate usage. All users shall adhere to this guideline and the laws, policies and rules governing computers and computer networks, electronic communications, the Internet, and Technology.

Acceptable Use:

In accordance with the responsible use of district devices and related services:

- The district offers equal access to computers.
- The district will respect privacy rights while prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding students and staff.
- The district will provide a safe venue for computer use through the use of Internet filters and staff supervision. It is recognized that the district cannot control everything that appears on a computer screen.
- Use of the district's systems is a privilege, rather than a right, subject to revocation by the district.

Prohibited Use.

The following uses, though not intended to be all-inclusive, are among those considered unacceptable and are expressly prohibited. If a student has a question regarding whether a particular activity or use is acceptable, he or she should seek guidance from their teacher or principal or the District's Office of Technology, Testing, and Assessment. Staff should direct their questions to the Office of Technology, Testing, and Assessment.

Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:

- Use of district devices and related services that violates Federal law, State law, local law, regulations of the Commissioner of Education, New York State Education Law, or school board policies as labeled above.

- Use of district devices and related services for the reproduction or dissemination of information that violates privacy rights, copyright laws, licensing agreements, and policies and regulations of the District.

- Use of district devices and related services for commercial activity including advertising that is not related to work at the District.

- Unauthorized installation of software and hardware. Software from outside sources, such as home or from the Internet, is not authorized to be used on district devices unless expressed written authorization has been obtained from District administration.

- Intentionally causing harm or damaging district devices, including unauthorized modification of electronic information of others or the District. This includes hacking and other activities that may knowingly harm or disrupt district devices or electronic information of others or the District. Use of district devices or other services for malicious, fraudulent, or misrepresentative purposes is not acceptable.

- Creating, viewing, downloading, reproducing, or disseminating any material considered harmful to minors or any illegal material.

- Creating, viewing, downloading, reproducing, or disseminating any material that is obscene, offensive, abusive, racist, sexist, containing sexually explicit material, or is considered harassing, intimidating, or bullying.

- Making, using, or installing illegal copies of copyrighted software or files and storing them on district systems or sending them to other networks.

- Using district servers to store personal files, such as music or personal photographs, without a system administrator's permission.

Website and Web Content

The Internet and World Wide Web provide valuable connectivity and access to information. In terms of employees creating web pages, this should be done in collaboration with your school's Principal, supervisor, or designee. Employees are encouraged to use the many tools now available to create helpful and relevant web pages as part of their school or District's website. Every employee should

proof read all content for appropriateness, spelling, and grammar. Adherence to the FERPA and Copyright regulations are required. Sound practices relating to teacher, classroom, team, department, school or District websites and web content are to be followed.

Additional Topics:

- The district retains control, custody, and supervision of all computers, software, networks, and Internet services owned or leased by the district.
- Students and staff have no expectation of privacy in their use of district computers including, but not limited to, personal email, private files, and stored files.
- The district reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by users and to review on-line activities.
- Students and staff should avoid disclosing personal information through the Internet without the specific permission of a parent or adult supervising computer use.

Penalties for Improper Use:

The use of a District account is a privilege, not a right, and misuse will result in the restriction or cancellation of the account. Misuse may also lead to disciplinary and/or legal action for both students and employees, including but not limited to, suspension, expulsion, dismissal from District employment, or criminal prosecution by government authorities. The District will attempt to tailor any disciplinary action to the specific issues related to each violation.

Disclaimer:

The District makes no guarantees about the quality of the services provided and is not responsible for any claims, losses damages, costs, or other obligations arising from the use of the network or accounts. Any additional charges a user accrues due to the use of the District's network are to be borne by the user. The District also denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through user access. Any statement, accessible on the computer network or the Internet, is understood to be the author's individual point of view and not that of the District, its affiliates, or employees. I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the provisions of the Acceptable Use Policy of the Wappingers Central School District.

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2023-24 Staff Technology Use Permission Form

Please sign this form and return to the main office or to your supervisor. You should keep the **Computer Use Background Information** form for your own records.

- I desire to be given access to the district's computers, networks, software, and Internet connection.
- I have read the District's *Computer Use Background Information* form.
- I understand that I will use computers and the Internet for educational purposes and not for non-educational, unlawful, or harmful purposes.
- I understand that I will follow the directions of the adult supervising an area with computers.
- I understand that I will follow generally accepted rules of network etiquette, interpersonal relations, and regard for property.
- I understand that violations of these guidelines will be dealt with in a manner consistent with district codes of conduct.

Please Print STAFF Full Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

School: _____ Department: _____