

UNDERSTANDING INTERNET RULES

Parents have asked school leaders to write the “Authorization for Internet Access” in language that is easier for children to read and understand.

The following statement is a simpler version of the permission form needed for a teacher, employee, or student to use the school’s Internet system. However, to protect the school district and the users, the actual “Authorization for Internet Access” with its legal terminology is the legally binding agreement.

If a student has a question about appropriate use of the Internet, he or she should ask his or her teacher. If parents/guardians or students need more information or clarification about the requirements or responsibilities involved with using the Internet at school, they should contact the system administrator at Carrollton High School at 217-942-6913.

The school district has installed network filters to help protect users from liability. Signing this document means that users will not engage in willful, malicious acts of mischief or disruption when using school equipment to access the Internet.

PERMISSION TO USE THE INTERNET AT SCHOOL

To be able to use the Internet at school, students and parents/guardians must read and sign the attached form.

The Internet is to be used for learning. The following rules must be obeyed. If a person who uses the Internet at school breaks these rules, he or she will lose the privilege of using the Internet at school. Also, the student may be punished at school. If a user breaks a law, he or she may be punished by legal authorities. Signing this agreement means that you have read and understand the rules of Internet use.

THE RULES

1. What is allowed:

The Internet must be used only for school work and learning appropriate things.

2. Privileges:

Students can have the opportunity to use the Internet as long as they follow the rules and use it in the correct way. The person at school who is in charge of Internet use is called the system administrator. The system administrator is the person who can decide if someone is breaking the rules and has the power to take away a student's permission to use the Internet.

3. What is not allowed:

You are responsible for what you do when using the Internet.

Some of the things you must not do are:

a. You can not break any laws.

You cannot copy anything that has a copyright, which means it legally belongs to someone else.

b. You are not allowed to take any software from the Internet and add it to a school computer unless you have permission.

This includes anything that has a copyright.

This even includes anything that has been cleaned up to take out "viruses," which are parts of a program that can harm a computer or a computer network.

c. You are not allowed to take anything from the Internet that has a copyright and use it except for appropriate personal use.

d. You are not allowed to use the Internet to make money for yourself.

e. You are not allowed to clutter your computer files with unneeded things.

f. You are not supposed to do anything you don't have permission to do.

- g. You must respect the rights of other people and not be “nosy.”
- h. You must use only your own password and the account given to you. You may not use anyone else’s account or password.
- i. You may not put someone else’s writing on the Internet without his or her permission.
- j. You may not send messages that do not have your identification on them.
- k. You may not use the Internet for business or advertising.
- l. You are not allowed to get, send, use, or show bad things from the Internet. This includes messages that say mean or unfair things about another person or things that are not true. This also includes bad language, profanity, and threats as well as messages that say bad things about people of another race. It also includes things that can harass or bother another person and that are illegal.
- m. You are not allowed to use the Internet if permission has been taken away.

4. Good manners on the Internet:

You should be considerate when using the Internet and should follow these rules:

- a. Be polite. Do not send mean or bad messages to anybody else.
- b. Do not use bad words.
- c. Do not tell anyone on the Internet your address or telephone number. Also, do not tell someone else’s address or telephone number.
- d. Other people can read your email. If you do something against the law, you may be reported to authorities.
- e. Do not do anything on the Internet that would cause problems for other users.
- f. Think of anything on the Internet as something that belongs to someone else.

5. No Guarantees:

Although you may be allowed to use the Internet on computers owned by the school district, the school district is not responsible if something bad happens to you. This includes losing information or not getting deliveries or having problems with service. You are responsible for any mistakes you make. You take a risk when you use the Internet. The school district is not responsible for making sure that information that you get from the Internet is correct or of good quality.

6. Preventing Expense to the District:

The person who uses the Internet will make sure that the school district will not have any losses or damage caused by the user breaking the rules. The person who breaks the rules will have to pay the school district for any expense or attorney's fees caused by his/her breaking the rules.

7. Safety:

Keeping the school network from having problems is very important. If you find out about any problems on the network, you must tell the person in charge of the computers or the principal. If you find out a way to "break into" the system, you must not show other people how to do this. You must not tell anyone your password or how to get into your account. Your password and account must be kept private. Do not use someone else's account unless they have given you permission by writing you a note saying that it is all right to use their account. You do not have permission to try to log on to the Internet by pretending to be a system administrator, who is the person in charge of the school's computer system. If you do pretend to be the person in charge of the system, you will lose the privilege of using the school's computer system. Any user who has shown that he or she is trying to cause problems on the system will not be allowed to use the school's computer system.

8. Vandalism:

A user will lose computer privileges and may have other punishment if he or she deliberately does something to damage or destroy information or computer data that belongs to another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes causing a computer virus to get onto the system.

9. Telephone Charges:

The school district will not pay for any telephone fees that a user may cause by doing something he or she is not allowed to do.

The people who need to sign this Authorization for Internet use include students, parent(s)/guardian(s), teachers, and all school employees if they want to use the Internet at school.

This authorization has to be signed only one time.

If you are using a computer, you can get the **District Internet Permission** form by downloading it from the district's website and printing a copy. Then you can sign this form.

Also, you can download the **Internet Photo Permission Form** from the district's website. Parents can use this form to give the school permission to put pictures of students and the students' first names on the district website. To protect students, their last names will not be listed on the website.