



## Letter to Parents or Guardians

The school district is pleased to announce the establishment of Internet services for its students. This letter describes the Internet services. Attached are the following documents:

- District Acceptable Use Policy
- Student Individual Account Agreement

The Internet is a global network that will provide your child with access to a wide range of information from throughout the world. Your child will also be able to communicate with people from throughout the world. Use of the Internet for educational projects will assist in preparing your child for success in life and work in the 21st Century.

It is possible that your child may find material on the Internet that you would consider objectionable. The District Acceptable Use Policy restricts access to material that is inappropriate in the school environment and we have installed software program to limit access to inappropriate material. However, the software is not entirely effective in blocking access and, therefore, we cannot guarantee that your child will not gain access to inappropriate material. There may be additional kinds of material on the Internet that are not in accord with your family values. We would like to encourage you to use this as an opportunity to have a discussion with your child about your family values and your expectation about how these values should guide your child's activities while they are on the Internet.

You must specifically authorize your child's individual e-mail account. You and your child must sign the enclosed Student Account Agreement to establish an account. You have the option of not allowing your child access to the Internet. Please sign the attached form and check the box indicating your choice.

Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Student Access to and Technical Services Provided Through S.I.S.D.'s system.**

- 1. E-mail.** E-mail will allow students to communicate with people from throughout the world. Students will also be able to subscribe to maillists to engage in group discussions related to educational subjects.
- 2. World Wide Web.** The Web provides access to a wide range of information in the form of text, graphics, photographs, video, and sound, from throughout the world. The Web is a valuable research tool for students.

## **Guidelines for Parents on Child Safety For Home and School Use**

By taking responsibility for your children's online computer use, parents can greatly minimize any potential risks of being online. Make it a family rule to:

Never give out identifying information - home address, school name, or telephone number in a public message such as chat or bulletin boards, and be sure you're dealing with someone that both you and your children know and trust before giving out via E-mail. Think carefully before revealing any personal information such as age, marital status, or financial information. Consider using a pseudonym or unlisting your child's name if your service allows it.

Get to know the services your child uses. If you don't know how to log on, get your child to show you. Find out what types of information it offers and whether there are ways for parents to block out objectionable material.

Never allow a child to arrange a face-to-face meeting with another computer user without parental permission. If a meeting is arranged, make the first one in a public spot, and be sure to accompany your child.

Never respond to messages or bulletin board items that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you feel uncomfortable. Encourage your children to tell you if they encounter such messages. If you or your child receives a message that is harassing, of a sexual nature, or threatening, forward a copy of the message to your service provider and ask for their assistance.

Remember that people online may not be who they seem. Because you can't see or even hear the person it would be easy for someone to misrepresent him-or herself. Thus, someone indicating that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could in reality be a 40-year-old man.

Remember that everything you read online may not be true. Any offer that's "too good to be true" probably is. Be very careful about any offers that involve your coming to a meeting or having someone visit your house.

Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. Discuss these rules and post them near the computer as a reminder. Remember to monitor their compliance with these rules, especially when it comes to the amount of time your children spend on the computer. A child or teenager's excessive use of online services or bulletin boards, especially late at night, may be a clue that there is a potential problem. Remember that personal computers and online services should not be used as electronic babysitters.

Be sure to make this a family activity. Consider keeping the computer in a family room rather than in the child's bedroom. Get to know their "online friends" just as you get to know all of their other friends.