ASHE COUNTY
schools
Challenging young minds to soar.

Dr. Eisa M. Cox, *Superintendent* • Joshua D. Roten, *Chairman* • Dianne Eldreth, *Vice Chairman* • Polly Jones • Dr. Kimberly Simmons• Janet Ward

Student Network/Internet Safety/Media Publishing Information

Introduction

We are pleased to offer students of the Ashe County School System access to the district computer network resources, Internet access and communications. This tool has become a vital part of our instructional program and is used daily in classrooms throughout our system. Students and their parents/guardians should review this document and understand that the use of online (Internet) resources has become a standard method of delivery for instructional materials as well as required standardized tests. Therefore, students must have access to these resources for full participation in the educational process. Any questions or concerns about our computer network or access should be referred to your school's Technology Facilitator. A copy of the board policy regarding student access to networked informational resources (3225/7320) are available on the Ashe County Schools District website, www.ashe.k12.nc.us.

General Network Use

The network is provided for students' instructional use. Access to network services is a privilege and is given to students to use in a considerate and responsible manner. Students are expected to utilize good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. As such, general school rules apply for behavior/communications and users must comply with district standards and honor agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private.

Internet Access and Communications

Access to Internet will enable students to use thousands of libraries and databases. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. Filtering software is in place and eliminates most of the inappropriate material, but no filtering system is capable of blocking 100% of the inappropriate content available on the Internet.** To assist in protecting our students, Internet safety as well as responsible use is taught to students at the third, sixth and ninth grade levels but teachers will expect responsible and ethical behavior while utilizing the internet at all levels. We believe that the education benefits to students from access to the Internet exceeds the disadvantages.

(over)

The activities listed below are examples of violations/hazardous items that could result in disciplinary or legal action.

- Sending, receiving, displaying or accessing defamatory, offensive, profane, sexually oriented, racially offensive or illegal materials
- Using obscene language
- Sharing personal information on websites (full name, address, phone number, identifiable photos) without permission from a teacher, parent or guardian.
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Unauthorized access; damaging or modifying computers, computer systems or computer network
- Violating copyright laws
- Invading the privacy of individuals or using others' passwords
- Trespassing in others' folders, work or files
- Intentionally wasting limited network resources (streaming content without permission)
- Employing the network for commercial purposes, financial gain or fraud
- Attempting to access websites blocked by district policy including the use of proxy services, software or websites. The use of keylogging devices/software is prohibited.

Publishing to the Internet

Parents should be aware that your daughter or son's work may be considered for publication on the Internet, specifically on his/her school's or teacher's website. Such publishing is to highlight exceptional projects and reward student achievements. Photos, video and recorded audio of students may also be published to school/county websites/ social media sites, illustrating student projects and achievement or his/her participation in educational events. To align with our policy, only the student's first name and last initial will be published.

Student Agreement

Please print _____

                Student's first name   **Middle name**   **Last name**

I have read, understand and abide by the Ashe County Public Schools Technology AUP/Responsible Use Policy (7320). I understand any violation of this policy is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, disciplinary/legal action may be taken.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____/_____/____

Grade: _____   *Signature waived for grades K-2

Parent Agreement

As a parent or guardian of this student, I have read this document and agree to the content within. I understand that I may access the full Technology AUP/Responsible Use Policy on the ACS website. I also understand that access is designed for educational purposes only. As a parent, you may choose to restrict any of these privileges by putting the request in writing to Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox, PO Box 604, Jefferson, NC 28640.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____/_____/____

*This agreement will remain in effect for as long as the student is enrolled in ACS or until the parent/guardian submits a letter revoking permission for the student.