

Introduction

The Unionville-Chadds Ford School District believes that using computer resources should be an enjoyable and educational experience. Therefore, the school district provides computing facilities to faculty, students and staff for educational activities. This policy mandates responsible behavior by individuals given access to these facilities.

Definition

Computing resources include mainframe, mini and microcomputers, as well as peripherals, networks, software, data, labs, computer-related supplies and the Internet.

General Computing Policies

1. Intentional abuse of computing resources, intentional interference with the operation of computing resources, intentional interference with the work of other users, violation of confidentiality, copyrights, or license agreements, and intentional wasting of computer resources is prohibited.
2. Actions which attempt to circumvent prescribed channels of obtaining computer privileges and resources are prohibited.
3. Changing wiring, connections, or placement of computing resources is prohibited.
4. Modifying any system configuration, startup files, or applications, without the explicit permission of the lab supervisor, teacher or library/media specialist is prohibited.
5. Users will inform the lab supervisor, teacher or media specialist of improperly working equipment or software so that computing resources can be better maintained.
6. Using computing resources for commercial purposes is prohibited.
7. Students may not use or down-load privately owned computer software in school computers without permission of the classroom teacher. Software will not be loaded onto any district equipment in violation of copyright or licensing agreements.
8. In instances where teachers determine that student-owned software may be advantageous to the instructional program, such software must first be brought to

the attention of the appropriate curriculum staff and instructional materials selection committee for review and assessment. Student-owned software shall not be permanently loaded or copied for use in school system computers.

9. Under no circumstances shall students, employees of the school system or any individual exhibit or disseminate obscene materials on school property by computers or any other means.

Internet User Requirements

Internet access has been made available to students and teachers. This access offers vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and teachers. The goal of providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, production, innovation and communication.

With international access to computers and people also comes the availability of material considered to be of little educational value in the school setting. Internet users are personally responsible for and will restrict access to controversial materials. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials. An industrious user may discover controversial information. However, the value of information and interaction available on this worldwide network outweighs the possibility that users may procure material not consistent with school system educational goals. Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies as well as regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. In general, this responsibility requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of network resources. If a Unionville-Chadds Ford School District user violates any of these provisions, access to the Internet will be terminated and future access jeopardized.

Internet - Terms and Conditions

1. Acceptable use - The purpose of Internet is to support research and education in and among academic institutions. Access is provided to unique resources as well as the opportunity for collaborative work. Internet use must be in support of educational endeavors and research consistent with the objectives of the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District. Use of other networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is likewise prohibited.

2. Privileges - The use of Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use

will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The classroom teacher and school administration will deem what is inappropriate use.

3. Netiquette - Generally accepted rules of network etiquette is required. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- a. Be polite. Abusive messages to others will not be tolerated.
- b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- c. Do not reveal personal addresses or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
- d. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. Others who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities can be reported to proper authorities.
- e. Do not use the network in a manner that disrupts the use of the network by other users.
- f. All communications and information accessible via the network should be respected as private property.

4. The Unionville-Chadds Ford School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the Internet service it provides. The school system is not responsible for any damages suffered by users. This includes the loss of data resulting from delays, nondeliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruption caused for any reason. Use of information obtained is at the user's risk. The school system specifically denies responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its Internet services.

5. Commercial services are available on the Internet. If a user chooses to access these services, this individual is liable for any incurred costs.

6. Security - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If any security problem on Internet is identified, a teacher or administrator must be notified. This problem should not be demonstrated to other users. Any user identified as a security risk or as having a history of problems with other computer systems shall be denied access to Internet.

7. Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or networks connected to the Internet. This includes, but not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

8. Accountability - Since the Internet opens up the world to unrestricted access,

teachers cannot assume the responsibility for monitoring every document to which a student may gain access. Therefore, teachers are not to be held accountable for what the student may access through the Internet beyond instructional directives.

In Summary:

1. Users are expected to exercise responsible behavior when on the Internet. Responsible behavior includes, but is not limited to the following: being courteous, following rules established by other groups on the Internet, using the Internet as a resource tool, avoiding inappropriate language and staying on task.
2. Using the Internet to harass other users is prohibited.
3. Seeking access to unauthorized resources in the Internet is prohibited.
4. Revealing home addresses or phone numbers is prohibited.
5. Users are expected to immediately inform their supervisor if any inappropriate action such as an improper advance or request is encountered from a local or remote user.

Enforcement

Violating any of the guidelines above can result in:

1. Restricted access to computing facilities.
2. Temporary or permanent loss of access to computing facilities and equipment.
3. Disciplinary or legal action including, but not limited to, disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct."
4. Unionville-Chadds Ford School District's internal procedures for enforcement of its policies are independent of possible prosecution under the law.
5. Users who damage hardware or software shall be responsible for the replacement cost.