

The **Ridgefield School District** is pleased to offer our students access to the district computer networks for electronic mail and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission and must sign and return this form to the **LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST**. Students 18 and over may sign their own forms.

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Families should be warned that some materials accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make the Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Ridgefield Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

**District Internet and E-Mail Rules**

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access is a privilege-not a right. Access entails responsibility and users waive any rights to privacy which they would otherwise have regarding such material. All network activity and content will be filtered to the best of the district's ability.

Individual users of the District computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with District standards and will honor the 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 ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should expect that files stored will not be private and will be filtered through district network filtering.

Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

As outlined in **Board policy and procedure 2022** on students rights and responsibilities, the following are some examples of the things not permitted and considered Network and Internet Offenses:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright law
- Using another's password
- Trespassing in another's folders, work or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Bypassing or sabotaging security and filtering measures set in place by the District.
- Attaching any unauthorized equipment to the network.

**NOTICE: Violations of Network and Internet offenses may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.**

**User Agreement and Parent Permission Form**

As a user of the Ridgefield School District computer network, I hereby agree to comply with above stated rules - communicating over the network in a reliable fashion while honoring all relevant laws and restrictions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT LEGAL NAME (*print*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
STUDENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT NAME (*print*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**I have read this form and do NOT want my child to have Internet Access:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(*Initial Above*)

**Please Sign and return to Library/Media Specialist**