

# Computer, Network, and Internet Use Student Policy

Updated 8/1/2009

## **Purpose**

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The intent of this regulation is to provide students with general requirements for utilizing Buffalo Valley Public School District computers, networks, E-mail and Internet services. The regulation may be supplemented by more specific administrative procedures and rules governing day-to-day management and operation of the computer system. These rules provide general guidelines and examples of prohibited uses for illustrative purposes but do not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by users. Students who have questions regarding whether a particular activity or use is acceptable should seek further guidance from their teacher, principal, or the network administrator.

## **Personal Responsibility**

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The Buffalo Valley Public School District is pleased to make available to the students, access to the district network and the Internet, which provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities. In order for the District to continue making its computer network, E-mail, and Internet access available, students must understand that one student's misuse of the network, E-mail, and Internet access may jeopardize the ability of all students to enjoy such access.

## **Acceptable and Prohibited Use**

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### ***Acceptable Use***

Student access to Buffalo Valley Public School District computers, networks, E-mail and Internet services is provided for education, communication, and research purposes. General rules and expectations for student behavior and communication apply to the use of Buffalo Valley Public School District computers, networks, E-mail and Internet services. If there is any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is educational, students should consult with the person(s) designated by the District to help decide if a use is appropriate.

### ***Prohibited Use***

The student is responsible for his/her actions and activities involving school unit computers, networks, E-mail and Internet services and for his/her computer files, passwords and accounts. General examples of unacceptable uses, which are expressly prohibited, include but are not limited to the following:

- Any use that is illegal or in violation of other Board policies, including harassing, discriminatory or threatening communications and behavior, violating of copyright laws, etc.;
- Any use that passes confidential or personal information about another individual or group and/or, in which, one individual portrays him/herself as another individual for any purpose.
- Any use that prompts or promotes the buy, selling, or participation in illegal use of any controlled or illegal substances, weapons, or promotes gang activity and/or violence directed toward particular persons or groups.
- Downloading and/or loading software/applications without permission from the system administrator and/or any malicious use of computer, network, and Internet services or breach of security features;

## **Netiquette**

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All students must abide by rules of network etiquette, which include the following:

- Be polite. Use appropriate language. No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or threatening language. Don't use access to make, distribute, or redistribute jokes, stories, or other material that is based upon slurs or stereotypes relating to specific persons or groups.
- Don't assume that a sender of e-mail is giving his or her permission to forward or redistribute the message to third parties or to give his/her e-mail address to third parties. This should only be done with permission or when it is known that the individual would have no objection.

## **Internet Safety**

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All students and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every student must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network, E-mail, and Internet and avoid these sites. Parents of minors are the best guides to materials to shun and should discuss with their children safe Internet practices.

## **Active Restriction Measures**

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The District-provided Internet access utilizes Sonicwall filtering software and other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that students are not accessing such depictions or any other material, which is inappropriate for minors.

## **No Expectation of Privacy**

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Buffalo Valley Public School District retains control, custody and supervision of all computers, networks, E-mail and Internet services owned or leased by the District. Buffalo Valley Public School District reserves the right to monitor inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network, E-mail, and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage by students and other system users.

## **Warranties/Indemnification**

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The Buffalo Valley Public School District makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this policy. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any student or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the student's use of its computer networks or the Internet under this policy.

## **Agreement**

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By signing the Student Agreement, parents and students are agreeing not only to follow the rules in this policy, but are agreeing to report any misuse of the network to the person designated by the school for such reporting. Misuse means any violations of this policy or any other use that is not included in the policy, but has the effect of harming the student, another student, or damaging property.

## Advisement

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This is an abridged version of the Buffalo Valley School Student Policy and contains summarized information from the detailed policy. You can obtain a copy of the full detailed policy on the school website or in the high school office. By signing, students are acknowledging that they understand that they will be held accountable to the full policy regardless as to whether or not they have read it. **Student login accounts will not be activated until this is returned signed.**

## Student/Parent Signature Form

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand and will abide by Buffalo Valley  
(Type/Print Student's Name)

School's Network Acceptable Use Policy. I further understand that any violation will result in the loss of access privileges and school disciplinary action.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read and understand that this access is designed  
(Type/Print Parent/Guardian's Name)

for educational purposes only. I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all inappropriate materials. However, I accept full responsibility for my child's compliance and, hereby, give my permission for my child to use the Buffalo Valley school network to access the Internet.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_