

MIDDLEBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INTERNET AND NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY  
(For Students grades 6-12)

## I. ACCEPTABLE USE

The Middleborough Public School system provides Internet access for students and staff for educational purposes to transform teaching and learning. The Middleborough Public Schools expects that students and staff will use this access in a manner consistent with this purpose. The Middleborough Public Schools encourages the use of technology to assist staff and students with academic success, preparation for the workplace and lifelong learning therefore ensuring that students develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Users are digital citizens and use information and technology in safe, legal, and responsible ways. Digital Citizens follow these guidelines:

### **Digital Citizenship-Respect**

**Respect yourself** by selecting and posting appropriate names, images, and information online. Keep personal details (name, address, and phone numbers), personal schedules, and contact information private.

**Respect Others:** Do not bully, stalk, or harass anyone. Abuse and inappropriate use of technology must be reported. Do not share personal account information with anyone, use an account that belongs to someone else, or leave your account open and unattended. Do not edit or delete files belonging to someone else. Do not post photos of any person without their express permission. Images of confidential materials such as tests are prohibited.

**Respect intellectual property** by citing all sources including websites, books, and media produced by others, including graphics and music.

### **Digital Citizenship –Responsibility**

Users are expected to be respectful and ethical. Each user represents Middleborough Public Schools and will communicate with language and gestures that are appropriate and not profane, racist, sexist, or discriminatory.

### **Digital Citizenship- Integrity**

Access to the Internet, other electronic resources and the hardware is a privilege, not a right, and carries with it responsibilities for safe and respectful use.

Using district-owned technology equipment outside of the school day constitutes an extension of the school day, similar to a field trip or sporting event. Users are expected to adhere to rules outlined in the school and faculty handbook and district policies.

Because information technology is constantly changing, not all situations can be anticipated or addressed in a policy. All users are expected to understand and comply with both the "letter" and the "spirit" of this policy and show good judgment in their use of these resources.

See Nine Themes of Digital Citizenship for more information at [http://digitalcitizenship.net/Nine\\_Elements.html](http://digitalcitizenship.net/Nine_Elements.html)

Middleborough Public Schools filters the Internet in compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The combination of the filter, appropriate student use, and teacher supervision ensures safe

access to the Internet. However, we still cannot guarantee that your child will not find material on the Internet that may be considered objectionable. Student use of the network is restricted to educational purposes only. Personal electronic devices are subject to the same restrictions.

## II. UNACCEPTABLE USE

The following is a list of prohibited behaviors. The list is not exhaustive but illustrates unacceptable uses of the Middleborough Public Schools Internet Service.

- Using the Internet to bully. This includes bullying through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a school district or school, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the target, infringes on the rights of the target at school or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school in accordance with Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010. Please see <http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw10/sl100092.htm> and the Middleborough Public Schools Anti-bullying policy for a definition of bullying and more information.
- Using the Internet service for any illegal activities such as gaining unauthorized access to other systems, arranging for the sale or purchase of drugs or alcohol, participating in criminal gang activity, threatening others, transferring obscene material;
- Vandalizing school computers by causing physical damage, reconfiguring the computer system, attempting to disrupt the computer system, or destroying data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means;
- the use of anonymous proxies to get around content filtering is strictly prohibited and is in direct violation of this agreement and CIPA.

## III. BLOGGING/PODCASTING

The use of blogs, podcasts or other Web 2.0 tools is considered an extension of the classroom. Whether at home or in school, any speech that is considered inappropriate in the classroom is also inappropriate in all uses of blogs, podcasts, or other web 2.0 tools.

## IV. CARE OF EQUIPMENT

Users are responsible for the care of any physical technology equipment, including but not limited to tablets, cables, servers, computers and printers. Broken or damaged equipment should be reported to the technology office immediately.

Technology equipment should never be left unattended or in an unlocked locker.

Users should not loan technology equipment signed out to them to another student, teacher, friend or family member.

## V. INTERNET SAFETY

Use of the Internet has potential dangers. Users are encouraged to visit the website of the Massachusetts Plymouth County District Attorney's Office regarding Internet safety. Internet Safety Tips are available online at <http://www.mass.gov/da/plymouth/protection/tipskids.html>.

### Things You Never Should Do:

- Never, ever, agree to get together with someone you "meet" online.
- Never give out your personal information, including your age!
- Never send pictures of yourself, your friends, your family or any other personal material to a friend you meet online
- Never give your e-mail address to anyone on the Internet without first asking permission of your parents

Beware that people online may not be who they seem! ***Because you can't see or hear a person who is online, it's easy for them to pretend they are someone they are not!***

## VI. PRIVACY

- Users should not have an expectation of privacy or confidentiality in the content of electronic communications or other computer files sent and received on the school computer network or stored in the user's directory or on a disk drive.
- The Administration of the Middleborough Public Schools reserves the right to examine all data stored on district-owned storage media involved in the user's use of the Middleborough Public School System Internet or Network service.
- Internet messages are public communication and are not private. All communications including text and images may be disclosed to law enforcement or other third parties without prior consent of the sender or the receiver. Network administrators may review communications to maintain integrity system-wide and ensure that users are using the system responsibly.

## VII. VIOLATIONS

Violation of this policy may result in immediate loss of use of the technology and/or disciplinary action up to and including legal action. Your signature on this document is legally binding, and indicates that you have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance and consequences. This policy is further supported by the rules and regulations found in each school's student handbook and discipline policies.

PLEASE RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS. RETURN PAGE 5 TO YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL.

**Failure to submit a completed form will adversely affect your child's ability to participate in computer-based activities as of October 1.**

Student Internet and Network Acceptable Use Policy Return Form

This form is signed once for your enrollment at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name school here)

We have read the Middleborough Public Schools' Internet Acceptable Use Policy and agree that the student user identified below will abide by its provisions. We also:

- understand that violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action;
- that the Middleborough Public Schools filters the Internet but that no filter is perfect and, in rare instances, there may be unintentional access to inappropriate material; and
- agree to hold harmless the school district and its representatives for materials acquired through the Middleborough Public Schools' Internet service and for the way the student user chooses to use the access to the Internet.

STUDENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name)

\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED AND DATED COPY TO PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

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**Failure to submit a completed form will adversely affect your child's ability to participate in computer-based activities.**

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STUDENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
(date)

PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
(date)