



Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology

Network and Telecommunication Services Acceptable Use Policy

CVGS network and telecommunications services are designed to enhance student learning by supporting instructional activities within the school and by providing students with access to the resources available in the global electronic community. Through our Internet connections, students can communicate with scientists, political leaders and other students around the world. They can use the World Wide Web to search libraries for information on research topics, download data to use in their research, and utilize computational resources located at universities around the world. Because of its enormous size, the educational potential of the Internet is boundless. However, with such great potential for education also comes some potential for abuse.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. However, on a global network, it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover pornographic and/or other controversial materials. The Governor's School faculty and Governing Board firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on the Internet far outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the school. Therefore, it is the purpose of this policy to ensure that parents are fully informed and that students and faculty members use the CVGS network and telecommunications services in an appropriate manner.

The Governor's School considers any violation of the acceptable use policy a serious offense and reserves the right to copy and examine any files or information resident on CVGS systems allegedly related to unacceptable use. The use of the CVGS network and telecommunications services is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in disciplinary action by school officials and/or the cancellation of those privileges.

Examples of unacceptable use of CVGS network telecommunications services include but are not limited to the:

- use for any purposes which violate local, state, federal, or international laws.
- interference or disruption of network users, services, or equipment.
- use of another person's account.
- sharing of your user ID with any other person. You are solely responsible for any actions which occur in relation to your user ID number.
- use of the network to send a message with another person's name on it.
- dissemination of personal addresses or telephone numbers of other students or colleagues.

- use of impolite, malicious, threatening, inflammatory, sexist, racist, or obscene language in public or private messages.
- use of computer programs to decode passwords or access control information.
- unauthorized entry into other computational, information, or communications services, devices, or resources.
- attempt to change, harm, or destroy data of other users (includes the use of computer viruses)
- use for commercial purposes.
- use for political lobbying.
- use for retrieving or sending pornographic material.
- falsification of one's identity to others.
- creation, transmittal, or use of illegal copies of copyrighted software.
- waste of computing resources, for example, by intentionally placing a program in an endless loop, by sending chain letters or junk mail, or by printing excessive amounts of paper.

The most important prerequisite for a student or educator to receive an account to use CVGS network and telecommunications services is that he or she take full responsibility for his or her own actions. The Central Virginia Governor's School will not be liable for the actions of anyone using the network and telecommunications services. All users shall assume full liability, legal, financial, or otherwise, for their actions. The signature(s) on the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement form is (are) legally binding and indicate(s) that the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions stated in this policy carefully and understand(s) their significance.

Please sign and return the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement Form in your student orientation package and return to the CVGS office. Retain this document for future reference.