

COMPUTER RESOURCES, Web Learning Tools AND NETWORK SERVICES ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES

Web Learning Tools

Mesquite ISD provides its students with access to computers, network resources, and the Internet for the purpose of enhancing instruction, expanding learning opportunities, and promoting educational excellence. Collaboration, learning, and sharing work using web and network tools are part of the educational experience. These online tools make learning engaging, provide opportunities for feedback from other students and teachers outside of class, and enable students to practice and refine communication/digital citizenship skills. Throughout the school year, students and teachers will use a variety of learning tools on the Internet for the purpose of sharing and collaboration on many projects including writing, artwork, voice and video recordings, and photos. Students may create and publish wikis, blogs, respond to discussion forums, and Learning Management Systems (LMS: i.e., eLearn.mesquiteisd.org) pages on the MISD Web site as part of a class or school sponsored activity.

Student Privacy on the Internet

All efforts will be made to protect the privacy of our students as they use web learning tools.

- Individual photographs of students will not include names or identifying information.
- No personal information about the student, such as home address or telephone number, will be published.
- In the event that a student's name is used, it will be used only with parent permission.
- All public Internet learning activities will involve the use of a screen name.

MISD has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial information with the use of filtering software. However, it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover inappropriate resources. The District believes that the valuable information and interaction available on the Internet far outweigh the possibility that users may discover material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the district. 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. Participating in online learning, sharing, and collaboration is both an opportunity for academic enrichment and a privilege for MISD students. As you participate with your teachers and classmates in web learning, please adhere to the following guidelines.

Rules of Acceptable Use

A. General Use

- The use of an account must be in support of education and research and be consistent with the learning objectives or curriculum of the Mesquite Independent School District.
- Do not give user passwords to any other individual or attempt to use anyone else's account.
- Student pages should include the following notice: "This is a student web page. Opinions expressed on this page shall not be attributed to Mesquite ISD."
- Unless part of the approved MISD curriculum, the following rules also apply:
 - Students are prohibited from changing any computer settings and/or configurations.
 - Students may not install any software, including but not limited to commercial software, shareware, freeware, original software and/or utilities onto school computers or networks.
 - Students are not allowed to open computer cases (CPU's) or make modifications to computers.

B. Internet/Electronic Communications Use

- Students are expected to understand that electronic communications are not private. Network administrators may review electronic communications and logs of Internet sites visited to verify appropriate use.
- Use network etiquette by communicating politely with appropriate language. Abusive messages to others, swearing, and use of vulgarities and other inappropriate language is not permitted.
- Do not reveal personal information, except with teacher permission or to request college information.
- Do not reveal names, personal addresses and/or phone numbers of others.
- If a user identifies or has knowledge of a security problem on the network, the user must notify the teacher immediately. The security problem should not be shown or demonstrated to other users.
- Photos of students are permitted; publicly accessible wiki, blog, discussion forum, or web pages must not include any student identifying information: i.e., location, names, phone numbers, photos with names or location, in their web publications or posts.
- Students are to conduct appropriate searches and access only Internet sites that are appropriate for students and support District learning objectives.
- Students are to notify their teacher immediately if they should encounter any material or electronic communication that is inappropriate, which may include pornographic material, bomb threats or cyber bullying.
- Students must not respond to any electronic messages that are inappropriate.
- Students are prohibited from pretending to be someone else.
- Students are prohibited from transmitting and/or displaying obscene messages or pictures (pornography).
- Students may not access or download any programs, files, or information without permission from a teacher.
- Only authorized MISD employees are allowed to post to official MISD web sites.
- Material presented on a student wiki, blog, discussion forum, or LMS must meet the learning objectives or curriculum of the school-related activity, as well as follow District policy and guidelines.

C. Computer Ethics

- Students are expected to observe copyright law in their use of electronic media. Publications must include a statement of copyright when appropriate and indicate that permission has been secured when including copyrighted materials.
- Transmission of any material in violation of any U. S. or state law is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, harassing, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.
- Use for commercial activities is not acceptable.
- Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.
- Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users (e.g. uploading and/or downloading huge files using prime time; sending frivolous mass e-mails, such as chain letters; annoying other users electronically).
- Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment, data of another user, the MISD network, or other networks that are connected to the MISD services. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

Consequences

Violation of the Rules of Acceptable Use may result in disciplinary action, possibly including:

- Loss of computer privileges for any length of time, up to the remainder of the school year, as determined by the building principal in consultation with the Technology Department.
- Detentions
- In School Suspension
- Suspension
- Placement at the DAEP
- Expulsion
- Financial responsibility for all costs associated with system restoration including labor, hardware or software repair/replacement, and restoring the integrity of data.
- Criminal charges

Disclaimer of Liability

The MISD offers no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services provided. The District will not be responsible for damages suffered, such as loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by the district's or user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the MISD network is at user's own risk. MISD has no claim for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through network services.