

Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Students

Introduction: Pinkerton Academy provides all users with the opportunity to utilize the Internet as a means of garnering resources to support research and for other educational endeavors. Administrators and teachers alike recognize the Internet's boundless potential as an information and communication resource; however, because of its enormous size and generally uncensored structure, there is also some potential for its abuse. Because the Internet is a fluid environment, the information available to users is constantly changing, making it impossible to predict with certainty what information users might intentionally or inadvertently locate. The benefits of providing users with Internet access vastly outweigh the disadvantages that the use of the Internet poses. The purpose of the Internet is to facilitate communications in support of research and education by providing access to unique resources and an opportunity for collaborative work. It should be clear that the Academy does not have sufficient staff to monitor every aspect of the Internet. However, our Network Manager, in conjunction with new computer software, is constantly monitoring and blocking sites that are deemed "inappropriate"; (inappropriate meaning "visual depictions" that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, or contain known viruses, spyware, are not educational in nature, or are deemed detrimental to the network.) We encourage parents to discuss proper use of the Internet with their children and to guide them in accordance with acceptable family and school values.

1. Educational Purposes - The purpose of the Academy's Internet connection is to enhance established school curriculum. Users are responsible for ensuring that their activities adhere to generally accepted educational standards. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. Due to the increasing use of the Internet and to make as much bandwidth available for educational use, all Internet access must be for educational purposes only. Game sites are never to be accessed from Pinkerton Academy computers at any time unless prior, written approval has been obtained from the administration. The approval process is for educational games only to be installed on a computer and NEVER over the Internet.

2. Privilege - Access to the Academy's Internet connection is a privilege and not a right. Users must read and sign "The Internet User Contract" before they will be allowed access to the Internet at Pinkerton Academy. Inappropriate use will result in restriction or cancellation of access privileges and/or in disciplinary action.

3. Privacy - Pinkerton's network is maintained and managed by the Network Manager and Computer Services Staff. In order to insure the network's availability and reliability in performing its educational mission, users have no reasonable expectation of privacy concerning any materials transferred to or stored on the network. Pinkerton Academy owns the hardware; therefore, any documents or materials stored therein are considered Pinkerton Academy property. Also, the Academy cannot be held accountable for the information that is retrieved via the network. Pursuant to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (18 USC 2510 et seq.), notice is hereby given that there are NO facilities provided by this system for sending or receiving private or confidential electronic communications. The Network Manager has access to all e-mail and can monitor messages. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Computer Usage and Infractions

It is the belief of the faculty and administration that students are expected to be responsible for their actions. This includes ethical, responsible use of materials, tools, and equipment. Nowhere is this more important than in the responsible use of the many computers on campus. Students must learn to show courtesy and respect to other users of the computers and be aware of the Academy as a community of learners. Computer users must abide by all aspects of the computer infractions and acceptable use policies listed in this book. Any student who discovers vandalism or damage to computer hardware or software must report same to a nearby faculty member immediately. An Internet user who accidentally links to an inappropriate site must notify their teacher immediately. Failure to do so will cause the student to face disciplinary action.

Policies and consequences for each of these categories of offenses are listed under the appropriate sections in the student planner. Due to the potential drastic ramifications of abuse with computer systems, the following infractions are being listed separately. Examples of infractions in each category are listed; however, infractions are not exclusively limited to these lists.

1. Cheating Submitting a computer generated file or document, either electronically or in hardcopy, which is either totally or in part the work of another person without a proper bibliographic citation.

2. Vandalism

- a. Altering, deleting, or installing files, icons, or programs on the computer without instructions to do so.
- b. Altering or removing any parts of a computer system including cables attached to the computer, mouse, network, printer, or other peripherals.
- c. Running programs that install bugs or viruses or cause physical or logical damage to the computer network.
- d. Entering parts of any network, system, program, or area where access has been denied.
- e. Modifying programs or the operating system without instructions to do so.

3. Stealing

- a. Taking storage devices.
- b. Removing parts of any computer system including keyboard keys, mouse components, or cables.
- c. Any unauthorized entry into computer files, including theft of intellectual property, will result in significant disciplinary action.

4. Sharing Accounts

In order to minimize computer misuse, students are prohibited from sharing student accounts or passwords. Students engaging in this practice will be subject to disciplinary action, including loss of privileges and detentions.

Any of the above infractions shall subject a student to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. All computer violations will be handled through normal administrative disciplinary channels, except for security breaches and/or vandalism. In these two situations, the Headmaster will supervise the investigation.

Please consult the Acceptable Use Policy below. Violations of the Acceptable Use Policy may result in one or more of the following disciplinary actions:

- Saturday detention, suspension or expulsion
- Suspension or revocation of access privileges
- Removal from a class activity -removal from a course
- Referral to the appropriate legal authorities for possible criminal prosecution

Student's Name: _____ ID Number: _____ YOG: _____

**ACCEPTABLE USE CONTRACT
FOR PINKERTON ACADEMY'S INTERNET CONNECTION**

We, _____, the student, and _____ the parent/guardian,
(print the student name) (print the parent name)
understand, accept, and agree to abide by the following statements.

We understand and agree to abide by the Academy's Internet Acceptable Use Policy and have read the complete version on PA's Web Site (hard copy provided if needed).

We understand and accept that all statements referring to the Academy's Internet connection include all access capabilities, including the Internet and that the Academy will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the student's use of the Internet.

We understand and accept that the purpose of the Academy's Internet connection is educational and that any other use is inappropriate. We understand and accept that the use of the Academy's Internet connection is a privilege and not a right. We understand and accept that inappropriate behaviors will lead to disciplinary action (suspension or revocation of access privileges, possibly removal from a course, cancellation of account, and/or legal action).

We agree not to participate in the transferring or storing of illegal materials such as copyrighted material through use of the Academy's Internet connection. We understand and accept that the transfer or storing of such materials may result in legal action.

We agree not to participate in the transfer or storing of materials, which may be considered, treasonous, subversive, obscene, sexually explicit or pornographic through use of the Academy's Internet connection.

We agree not to allow any other individual to make use of any of the user's passwords to access account privileges on the Academy's Internet connection. We understand and accept that we will be held responsible for any and all activities carried out through use of an account registered in the user's name.

We understand and accept that the Academy's Internet connection is maintained and managed by the IT Director in such a manner as to insure its availability and reliability in performing its educational mission. All computer usage and files will be maintained to insure such compliance. Users have no reasonable expectations of privacy concerning any materials transferred over or stored within the Academy's Internet connection.

We release Pinkerton Academy and all other organizations related to the Academy's Internet connection from any and all liability or damages that may result from the use of the Academy's Internet connection. In addition, we will accept full responsibility and liability for the results of the student's actions with regards to the use of the Academy's Internet connection. We release and hold harmless Pinkerton Academy's Board of Trustees, the Academy's Internet connection and all officials, employees, or agents and all related organizations from any liability relating to consequences resulting from the student's use of the Academy's Internet connection. We agree to indemnify the same for any damages arising out of the student's use to this agreement and the acceptable use policy.

We understand and agree to the provisions set forth above. We understand and accept that certain materials accessible through the Internet may be objectionable to us. I, the parent/guardian of the above, accept all financial and legal liabilities which may result from my child's misuse of the Academy's Internet connection.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Parent's/Guardian's Signature)

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Student's Signature)

Disclaimer: The Academy makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the Internet service it is providing. The Academy will not be responsible for any damage a user may suffer, including loss of data, from the student's use. The Academy will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet connection, nor for the information obtained in violation of this policy.