

Gentry Public Schools Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Policy

I. Acceptable Use

The District network exists for the primary purpose of transmitting and sharing information between academic and research organizations. Network use must be consistent with the goals of the school and include things such as aiding technology transfer, fostering innovation, resource sharing, debating issues, and building broader infrastructure in support of education and research. Networked computers may be used as a laboratory for research and experimentation.

II. Unacceptable Use

Use of the network for recreational games is not acceptable. It is essential for each user on the network to recognize his/her responsibility in having access to vast services, sites, systems, and people. The user is responsible for his/her actions. An account assigned to an individual may not be used by others. Faculty, students, staff and associates are individually responsible for the proper use of their accounts, including proper password protection and appropriate use of Internet resources.

The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, which may temporarily be revoked at any time for abusive conduct. Such conduct would include, the placing of unlawful information on a system, the use of abusive or otherwise objectionable language in either public or private messages, the sending of messages that are likely to result in the loss of recipients' work or systems, the sending of "chain letters," and accessing pornographic or objectionable materials. District computing resources cannot be used to intimidate or create an atmosphere of harassment based upon gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, creed or sexual orientation.

It is not acceptable to use the network so as to interfere with or disrupt network users, services, or equipment. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, distribution of unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer worms or viruses, and using the network to make unauthorized entry to any other machine accessible via the network. No one should deliberately attempt to degrade the performance of a computer system (including network resources) or to deprive authorized users of resources or access.

Unauthorized copying of licensed software is considered as theft and a violation of the copyright laws.

Violations of some of the guidelines set forth in this policy may constitute a criminal offense. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state laws or regulations is prohibited. Systems staff and District administrators will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in correcting any violations.

III. Plagiarism

Copying a student's computer assignment takes a little effort; so does detecting and proving such plagiarism. The standard academic penalties for this are severe. Systems staff will cooperate with instructors in verifying plagiarism. Guilty students will lose computing privileges and may be subject to receiving a failure for the assignment and possible failure of the course. This includes students who have completed a course and shared their old work with those in a subsequent semester.

IV. Responsibility

All faculty, students, staff and associates are responsible for use of District computing resources in an effective, efficient, ethical and lawful manner even in the absence of reminders or enforcement. Users are expected to follow normal standards of police conduct in their use of the computing resources. Responsible behavior includes consideration for other users, as well as efficient use of the computing time and materials. Don't be wasteful.

The District cannot be held liable for any losses, including lost revenues, or for any claims or demands against the user by any other party. The District cannot be held responsible for any damages due to the loss of output, loss of data, time delay, system performance, software performance, incorrect advice from a consultant, or any other damages arising from the use of the District's computer facilities.

Faculty cannot be held liable for the student's use of the network. They can, however, be held accountable by the Administration for a student's use of computers under their supervision. Students may access the network for individual work or in the context of another class. The Faculty is responsible for instructing the student on acceptable use of the network and proper network etiquette.