

AMHERST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENT CONDUCT

7315 STUDENT USE OF COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION RESOURCES (ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY)

The Board of Education will provide access to various computerized information resources through the District's computer system ("DCS" hereafter) consisting of software, hardware, computer networks and electronic communications systems. This may include access to electronic mail, so-called "on-line services" and the "Internet." It may include the opportunity for some students to have independent access to the DCS from their home or other remote locations. All use of the DCS, including independent use off school premises, shall be subject to this policy and accompanying regulations. Further, all such use must be in support of education and/or research and consistent with the goals and purposes of the School District.

Access to Inappropriate Content/Material and Use of Personal Technology or Electronic Devices

This policy is intended to establish general guidelines for the acceptable student use of the DCS and also to give students and parents/guardians notice that student use of the DCS will provide student access to external computer networks not controlled by the School District. The District cannot screen or review all of the available content or materials on these external computer networks. Thus some of the available content or materials on these external networks may be deemed unsuitable for student use or access by parents/guardians.

Despite the existence of District policy, regulations and guidelines, it is virtually impossible to completely prevent access to content or material that may be considered inappropriate for students. Students may have the ability to access such content or material from their home, other locations off school premises and/or with a student's own personal technology or electronic device on school grounds or at school events. Parents and guardians must be willing to establish boundaries and standards for the appropriate and acceptable use of technology and communicate these boundaries and standards to their children. The appropriate/acceptable use standards outlined in this policy apply to student use of technology via the DCS or any other electronic media or communications, including by means of a student's own personal technology or electronic device on school grounds or at school events.

Standards of Acceptable Use

Generally, the same standards of acceptable student conduct which apply to any school activity shall apply to use of the DCS. This policy does not attempt to articulate all required and/or acceptable uses of the DCS; nor is it the intention of this policy to define all inappropriate usage. Administrative regulations will further define general guidelines of appropriate student conduct and use as well as proscribed behavior.

District students shall also adhere to the laws, policies and rules governing computers including, but not limited to, copyright laws, rights of software publishers, license agreements, and student rights of privacy created by federal and state law.

Students who engage in unacceptable use may lose access to the DCS in accordance with applicable due process procedures, and may be subject to further discipline under the District's school conduct and discipline policy and the District Code of Conduct. The District reserves the right to pursue legal action against a student who willfully, maliciously or unlawfully damages or destroys property of the District. Further, the District may bring suit in civil court against the parents/guardians of any student who willfully, maliciously or unlawfully damages or destroys District property pursuant to General Obligations Law Section 3-112.

Student data files and other electronic storage areas will be treated like school lockers. This means that such areas shall be considered to be School District property subject to control and inspection. The Computer Coordinator may access all such files and communications without prior notice to ensure system integrity and that users are complying with the requirements of this policy and accompanying regulations. Students should **NOT** expect that information stored on the DCS will be private.

Notification

The District's Acceptable Use Policy and Regulations will be disseminated to parents and students in order to provide notice of the school's requirements, expectations, and students' obligations when accessing the DCS.

Regulations will be established as necessary to implement the terms of this policy. **Policy Cross References:**

» [8271 - CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT: INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING/SAFETY POLICY](#)

Amherst Central School District

Middle School Student Expectations and Conditions

1. It is my responsibility to avoid abusive conduct which would include, but is not limited to, the altering of system software, placing of unlawful information, computer viruses, or harmful programs on or through the system, in either public or private files or messages.
2. I am accountable for the use of either my password or a password entrusted to me. The password must not be revealed to anyone nor will I use others' passwords. I will be responsible for any problems which arise from the misuse of the password given to me.
3. I will not use the school's computer system to obtain, view, download, send, print, display or otherwise gain access to or transmit materials that are unlawful, obscene, pornographic, or abusive.
4. I will not use the District's computer system to harass, insult, or attack others.
5. I will use only authorized software on the District's computer system.
6. I will use all computer equipment for the purpose for which it is intended. I will not tamper with terminals, associated equipment, or otherwise disable the system.
7. I will not change, copy, rename, delete, read, or otherwise access files or software that I did not create unless I have permission from my instructor.
8. I will not use a computer for anything other than course-related work without permission from the instructor.
9. I will not violate copyright laws or use the District's computer system for commercial purposes.
10. If I identify a security problem on the District's computer system, I will immediately notify an instructor.

Network / Internet Policy

You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
2. Use only appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
3. Illegal activities of any kind are strictly forbidden.
4. Do not reveal any personal information such as your address or phone number or that of anyone else without prior permission from your instructor.
5. Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized user for the designated purpose.
6. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.