PEARLAND INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic Communications
(For Parents and Students)

Pearland Independent School District provides a variety of electronic communications systems for educational purposes. **The electronic communications system is defined as the District's network (including the wireless network), servers, computer workstations, mobile technologies, peripherals, applications/software, databases, online resources, Internet access, and any other technology designated for use by students, including all new technologies as they become available.** This also includes any access to the Pearland ISD electronics system while on or near school property, in school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities, and includes the appropriate use of district technology resources via off-campus remote access.

We recognize that the digital world allows anytime, anywhere access. Uses mentioned in this policy apply to **inside school** use and may in certain instances apply to personal technology use and/or uses **outside of school**. Any use of district services that could cause substantial disruption in school may be viewed as a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and may be subject to disciplinary measure.

In accordance with Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) and Children's Internet Privacy Act (CIPA), the district will make every effort to provide the most secure and optimal learning environment. Pearland ISD provides a web filtering software to prohibit students from accessing obscene, pornographic, or otherwise inappropriate material. However, it is not possible to absolutely prevent access (accidental or otherwise) to inappropriate content. **It is each student's responsibility to follow the guidelines for appropriate and acceptable use.** Access to the Pearland ISD network is a privilege and administrators and faculty may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are acting responsibly. Some web-based tools may require account creation under teacher supervision. If personal information, such as full name or age, is requested, the site will not share that information with third parties. Students may not disseminate personal information such as addresses and phone numbers while on the school network. Pearland ISD educates all students who are provided Internet access about appropriate online behavior, interactions on social networking sites and cyberbullying.

WIRELESS ACCESS AND BYOD
The district strives for 21st Century learning for students and teachers in a collaborative and engaging environment, including mobile learning through wireless access. Mobile learning offers opportunities for "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD). If a student brings a personal device, then the following guidelines apply:
- During school hours devices must remain silent and put away at all times except when their use is authorized by district personnel.
- Students are responsible for personal property brought to school and should keep personal items with self or in a locked space.
- **Schools cannot be responsible for lost/stolen/damaged personal items.**

GOAL
The district's goal is to prepare its members for life in a digital global community. To this end, the district will:
- Integrate technology with curriculum to enhance teaching and learning
- Promote critical thinking, communication, collaboration and problem solving skills
- Encourage ethical practices by providing education about Internet safety and digital citizenship
- Provide a variety of technology and web-based tools and related technology skills

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APPROPRIATE USE
- Students must log in and use the Pearland ISD filtered wireless network during the school day on personal electronic devices.
- Students must use only those accounts and passwords that they have been granted permission by the district to use. All account activity should be for educational purposes only.
- Students must only open, view, modify, and delete their own computer files or those provided by their teachers.
- Students must immediately report threatening messages or discomforting Internet files/sites to a teacher or an administrator.
- Students are responsible at all times for their use of the district's electronic communications system and must assume personal responsibility to behave ethically and responsibly, even when the technology provides them freedom to do otherwise.
- Students must use appropriate language and follow proper etiquette if using email.

INAPPROPRIATE USE COULD INCLUDE:

- Using the district's electronic communications system to post messages or access materials for illegal purposes including, but not limited to, cyberbullying, gambling, pornography, and computer hacking.
- Disabling or attempting to disable any system monitoring or filtering or security measures.
- Intentionally introducing a virus or other malicious programs onto the district's system.
- Sharing user names and passwords with others, and/or borrowing someone else's username, password, or account access.
- Purposefully opening, viewing, using or deleting files belonging to another system user except when directed by a teacher or an administrator.
- Electronically posting personal information about one's self or others (i.e., addresses, phone numbers, and pictures) except as directed by district faculty or administration as part of a learning activity.
- Recording photos or videos of anyone except as directed by district faculty or administration as part of a learning activity.
- Downloading or plagiarizing copyrighted information without permission from the copyright holder.
- Downloading or installing any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto any district device, including network storage or district owned mobile devices.
- Wasting or abusing school resources through unauthorized system use (i.e., playing online games, downloading music, etc.).

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE USE
- Appropriate disciplinary action up to expulsion from school or legal action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws including monetary damages
- Termination of System User Account: The district may deny, revoke, or suspend specific user's access to the district's system with or without cause or notice for lack of use, violation of policy or regulations regarding acceptable network use, or as a result of disciplinary actions against the user
- Possible criminal action

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Student Agreement:

I have read the *Pearland ISD Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic Communications* and agree to abide by the provisions.

I understand that my use of the Pearland ISD electronic communications system is not private and that Pearland ISD will monitor network activity.

I understand that my violation of any of these provisions may result in suspension or revocation of system access as well as appropriate disciplinary action.

I understand that I am responsible for my personal technology device and will take care to prevent loss, damage, or theft.

Student Name (Please Print) _____ Student ID _____

Campus _____Grade_____

Student Signature _____

Parent Agreement:

I have read the *Pearland ISD Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic Communications* and agree to abide by the provisions.

I understand that my child's use of the Pearland ISD electronic communications system is not private and that the district will monitor network activity.

I understand that my child's violation of any of these provisions may result in suspension or revocation of system access as well as appropriate disciplinary action.

I understand that personal wi-fi enabled devices will have the ability to access network resources. The school district is not responsible for loss, damage, or theft of personal technology devices.

☐ Please check if you as a parent/guardian DO NOT want your child to have Internet access. Use of the computer is still possible for more traditional purposes such as word processing.

_____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print)

_____   _____

Parent/Guardian Signature   Date