

# St. Paul's Lutheran School

## Computer and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

*Please read this document carefully before signing.*

The use of computers during St. Paul's school day is an integral part of a student's Christian education. The students and staff at St. Paul's Lutheran School also have access to the Internet. These technologies offer vast, diverse, and unique resources to both the students and staff. The goal in providing this service to the students and staff is to provide another avenue to assist in the Christian education process by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. St. Paul's staff will make every effort to guide and supervise students in the appropriate selection and use of electronic resources.

The use of computers and the Internet is also a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in a loss of those privileges and, potentially, other disciplinary action. Students will be held responsible for their actions and activity while using technology at St. Paul's Lutheran School.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers worldwide and millions of individual users. Students and staff may have access to:

1. Limited electronic mail communication with people all over the world.
2. Information and news from government sources, research institutions, and other sources.
3. Public domain software and shareware of all types.
4. Selected discussion groups on a wide range of topics.
5. Many public and private libraries, the Library of Congress.

With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of a school setting. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials. An industrious user may discover controversial information. We (St. Paul's Lutheran School) firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational values of St. Paul's Lutheran School.

Life is a series of choices and results. St. Paul's Lutheran School has chosen to make Internet resources available to students, and the result is that they will have access to far more information than if they had to rely only on the school's library. If a student chooses to use these resources for finding information that will be of assistance in learning, the result will be continued access to the Internet. If a St. Paul's Lutheran School student chooses to access resources that are objectionable, adult-oriented, or restricted, the result will be suspension and/or termination of access privileges and further disciplinary action as warranted. The signatures at the end of this document indicate each party who signed has read these terms and conditions and understands their significance.

## **SCHOOL COMPUTER GUIDELINES**

1. Technology should be used in a way that will treat other people in a God pleasing manner. Therefore, the sending of harassing or degrading messages, using files and E-mail to bear false witness or spread rumors about someone, or posting anonymous messages or personal communications without the original author's consent is prohibited. Any use of the computer, which demeans another person, whether they are other students, teachers, staff, or parents, in a manner that is contrary to God's Word, will not be tolerated.
2. Interfering with the work of another student or a teacher is prohibited. Students may not degrade or disrupt the normal function of hardware or software so that the performance of these items is damaged. Neither may students use technology in such a way that it is disruptive or harmful to the teacher, students, and classroom environment. Similarly, any student who uses a computer in a manner that is outside the parameters established by the teacher is subject to disciplinary action.
3. The privacy of other people, whether they are fellow students or teachers, is to be respected. Any invasion of the privacy of another person is a violation of the school technology use policy. Students may not intentionally access the messages, files, or work of another student or teacher, nor alter any of these in any way.
4. Students using technology are expected to uphold the 7th commandment. It is illegal to violate copyright laws. Copying of program files (as opposed to personal word processing files, or other student work) is prohibited except with the approval of the teacher and their personal supervision.
5. Students are to use computers only as instructed by their teacher. Students may not attempt to gain any unauthorized access to resources, programs, or on-line sites. Similarly, students are expected to maintain individual computer settings. These settings (such as the background, icons, screen savers, etc.) may not be altered without permission of the instructor.
6. Students may not use the technology at St. Paul's for their own financial or commercial gain.

### **Students are expected to adhere to all of the following guidelines concerning Internet use:**

1. Personal information of any kind about himself or herself or another person (students, teachers, parents, etc.) may not be transmitted. This includes home telephone numbers and addresses as well as information regarding the location of any student at any given time.
2. Students may not use any Internet feature, including the World Wide Web or E-mail without the direct personal supervision of the classroom teacher, teacher's aide, or authorized adult. Direct personal supervision means that the teacher (or other qualified individual) is present in the classroom or computer lab and is actively monitoring the work of the student.
3. Students are expected to maintain a Christ-like demeanor at all times. Therefore, no text, image, movie, or sound that contains obscene material or language that offends or degrades others will be allowed.

Possible consequences for violations of the school technology use policy include:

- a. withholding privileges
- b. detention(s)
- c. out-of-school suspension
- d. expulsion

Computer technology is a gift from God to his people. Like any other gift, it is up to us to use the gift wisely to glorify God and advance His Kingdom. St. Paul's Lutheran School acknowledges the blessings the Lord has bestowed on his church through technology, and we are committed to empowering our students to use this gift in a way that is in keeping with our Christian faith. We pray that God will bless our efforts to enhance our students' educational experience through technology.

# St. Paul's Lutheran School Acceptable Use Agreement

## Signature Form Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>

I understand and will abide by the Acceptable Use Agreement of St. Paul's Lutheran School. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may be instituted.

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Student name (please print)

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Student signature

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Date

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Acceptable Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. I recognize it is impossible for St. Paul's Lutheran School to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold St. Paul's Lutheran School (or any of its personnel) responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use of downloaded material is not in a school setting. I hereby give my permission to allow Internet access for my child.

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Parent or Guardian name (please print)

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Parent or Guardian signature

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Date

This form must be completed, signed and returned to school. All students must have a Signature Form on file.

# St. Paul's Lutheran School Acceptable Use Agreement

## Signature Form Grade K through 2<sup>nd</sup>

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Acceptable Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. I recognize it is impossible for St. Paul's Lutheran School to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold St. Paul's Lutheran School (or any of its personnel) responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use of downloaded material is not in a school setting.

I hereby give my permission to allow Internet access for my child.

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Student name (please print)

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Parent or Guardian name (please print)

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Parent or Guardian signature

Date

This form must be completed, signed and returned to school. All students must have a Signature Form on file.