



St. Mary's County Public Schools Acceptable Use of Computer Systems Guidelines for Students

St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) recognizes that access to and use of the Internet is an appropriate tool for instruction.

Precautions are taken to attempt to ensure that the Internet is a safe learning environment for students.

In accordance with the SMCPS Network Usage Standards, all use of the network and email communications must be in support of education, research and professional usage that is consistent with the purposes of St. Mary's County Public Schools.

In accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), SMCPS utilizes filtering software in an attempt to block access to objectionable material.

Students will be supervised while using the Internet and will be instructed in the appropriate and safe use, selections, and evaluation of information.

Violations:

The use of computer systems in school and access to the Internet is a privilege. Consequences for unacceptable use of the computer systems may result in the denial of access privileges and be held to the consequences in the Student Code of Conduct.

Internet Safety Resources:

MD Attorney General's C.L.I.C.K.S. Initiative (**C**ommunity **L**eadership **I**n **C**yber **K**nowledge and **S**afety)

<http://www.oag.state.md.us/clicks.htm>

NetSmartz: <http://www.netsmartz.org/index.aspx>

Kids Health Internet Safety:

http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/family/net_safety.html

SafeKids: <http://www.safekids.com/>

FBI's Parent's Guide to Internet Safety:

<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>

WiredSafety:

<http://www.wiredsafety.org/>

Responsibilities:

Students will:

- Learn the SMCPS procedures for ethical, responsible, courteous, and legal use of computer systems.
- Let a staff member know if inappropriate material is found online.
- Access only those network resources which align with an instructional activity.
- Agree never to meet with anyone with whom they have met while using the Internet without asking for permission from parents.
- Take precautions to protect school computer systems from damage and/or theft.

Students shall not:

- Reveal personally identifiable information except in specific circumstances where prior written consent has been given.
- Intentionally seek information (i.e. passwords, files, settings) about other users, or misrepresent other users on the network.
- Destroy, modify, or abuse hardware and software in any way.
- Use the network to develop programs that harass other users, or to infiltrate a computer or computer system is prohibited. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited.
- Install illegal copies of copyrighted software on school computers.
- Use the network to access obscene or pornographic material is prohibited. Users cannot create, access, download, store, or print files, messages, or images that are abusive, harassing, libelous, obscene, offensive, profane, pornographic, depict gang affiliation, threatening, sexually explicit, or illegal material or that violate the SMCPS Code of Student Conduct and/or any SMCPS policy.
- Access online games without prior permission of a staff member.
- Circumvent and/or disable content filtering or other computer system protection measures.



Dear Parent/Guardian:

St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) is requesting your permission for your student to use the Internet and other computer resources in school. It is important that you and your student review the information on the reverse side of this document before signing this page.

Please read, sign, and return this document to the school. Consent is required before your child will be permitted to use the Internet in school.

Student User Agreement

Must be signed by all students.

I hereby agree to abide by the SMCPS Acceptable Use Standards. I further understand that violation of the policy may be a violation of law, civil regulations, or the SMCPS Code of Student Conduct. Should I violate the policy, my access privileges may be suspended, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may result.

Student Name (last, first) – Please print

Grade

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Consent

Must be completed if your child is under 18 years of age.

I have read and understand the SMCPS Acceptable Use Standards. As a parent/guardian of the student signing above, I further understand that violation of the policy may be a violation of law, civil regulations, or the SMCPS Code of Student Conduct. Should my student violate the policy, I understand that my student's access to any hardware, software, or Internet may be suspended, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action may result.

Parent Name (last, first) – Please print

Grade

Parent Signature

Date