

STAUNTON COMMUNITY UNIT DISTRICT NO. 6

801 North Deneen Street
Staunton, IL 62088
Telephone: 618.635.2962
Fax: 618.635.2994

MARK SKERTICH
Elementary Principal
618.635.3831

KYLE A. HLAFKA, Superintendent

Edward D. Fletcher
High School Principal
618.635.3838

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have the ability to enhance your child's education through the use of the Internet. The Internet offers vast, diverse and unique resources. The District's goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. Your authorization is needed before your child may use this resource.

The Internet electronically connects thousands of computers throughout the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers may have access to:

- Limited electronic mail communications with people all over the world
- Information from government sources, research institutes and other sources
- Discussion groups
- Many libraries, including the catalog to the Library of Congress, and the Educational Resources Information Clearinghouses (ERIC)

With this educational opportunity comes responsibility. You and your child should read the *Authorization for Internet Access* and discuss it together. The use of inappropriate material or language, violation of copyright laws, or vandalism of Staunton School District computers or network may result in the loss of the privilege to use this resource. Remember that you are legally responsible for your child's actions.

The District prohibits the access of materials that may be defamatory, inaccurate, offensive, or otherwise inappropriate in the school setting. On an unregulated network, however, it is impossible to control all material and a user may discover inappropriate material. Ultimately, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their child or ward should follow. To that end, the School District supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to authorize Internet access.

Please read and discuss the Authorization for Internet Access with your child. If you agree to allow your child to have an Internet account, sign the Authorization form and return it to your school.

District Internet and Electronic Network Use

- **Students are responsible** for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.
- **The network is provided** for students and staff to conduct research. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access entails responsibility.
- **Individual users** of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed.
- **Network storage areas** may be treated like school lockers. Administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will be private.
- **District Internet and Electronic Network access** requires parent, student and staff signatures on the District's Acceptable Use Policy at the time of registration or employment.

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Authorization for Internet Access

Each teacher must sign this Authorization as a condition for using the District's Internet connection. Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign the Authorization before being granted access. School Board members and administrators are treated like teachers for purposes of this Authorization. Please read this document carefully before signing.

All use of the Internet shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. This *Authorization* does not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. **The failure of any user to follow the terms of the *Authorization for Internet Access* will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action.** The signature(s) at the end of this document is legally binding and indicates the party who signed has read the terms and conditions carefully and understands their significance.

Terms and Conditions

Acceptable Use - Access to the District's Internet must be for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the educational objectives of the District.

Privileges - The use of the District's Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The building principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated this Authorization and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.

Unacceptable Use - You are responsible for your actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable use are:

- Checking personal e-mail accounts, such as yahoo, hotmail, etc;
- Communicating through blogs, chat rooms, bulletin boards, or any type of instant messaging program;
- Damaging Staunton District computers or computer networks;
- Unauthorized downloading of .exe files;
- Intentionally wasting limited resources;
- Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities;
- Invading the privacy of individuals;
- Using another user's account or password;
- Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
- Posting offensive messages, pictures, hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks and other antisocial behaviors;
- Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked;

- Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material.
- Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any U.S. or State regulations;
- Using the network for private financial or commercial advertising or gain.

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

- Be polite. Do not become abusive in your messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal the names, personal addresses or telephones of students or colleagues.
- Recognize that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.

No Warranties - The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained by the Internet is at your own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Indemnification - The user agrees to indemnify the School District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any breach of this *Authorization*.

Security - Network security is a high priority. If you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify the system administrator or the Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep your account and password confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log-on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.

Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, any other network or any computer hardware or software on Staunton District network.

Unauthorized Charges - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees a user might incur on the Internet.

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(Required if the user is an Employee)

I understand and will abide by the *Authorization for Internet Access*. I further understand that should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action may be taken. In consideration for using the District's Internet connection and having access to public networks, I hereby release the School District and its Board members, employees, and agents from any claims and damages arising from my use, or inability to use the Internet.

Date _____

User signature _____

(Required if the user is a Student)

I have read this *Authorization for Internet Access*. I understand that access is designed for education purposes and that the District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for the District to restrict access to all controversial and inappropriate materials. I will hold harmless the District, its employees, agents or Board members, for any harm caused by materials or software obtained via the network. I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I have discussed the terms of this Authorization with my child. I hereby request that my child be allowed access to the District's Internet.

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) _____

Signature _____

Student Printed Name _____ Grade _____

Student Signature _____