

Internet and Electronic Mail Policy

The Internet Policy is currently being reviewed by the board of education.

INTERNET USAGE

Policy for the Use of Computers, the Internet and Electronic Mail

To gain access to Fast Direct and the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the form inserted in the handbook. This form must be signed by the parent(s) and student and be on file at school before a student may access Fast Direct and the Internet. Should a parent prefer that a student not have Fast Direct and Internet access, use of the computers is still possible for other purposes such as word processing.

Access to Fast Direct and the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums and other repositories of information and to exchange personal communication with other Internet users around the world. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purposes of the school are to use Internet resources for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials. SS. Peter and Paul has purchased filtering software to help minimize accessibility to objectionable material, but this software will not totally eliminate all potential problems. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the disadvantages. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. It is expected that users will comply with SS. Peter and Paul standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The students are advised never to access, keep or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

Network storage areas will be treated like school desks. Network administrators will review communications to maintain system integrity and will ensure that students are using the system responsibly. Users are expected to remain within allocated disk space and delete Fast Direct or other material, which take up excessive storage space.

Students should never download or install any commercial software, shareware or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless they have written permission from the network administrator. Nor should students copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

No profane, abusive or impolite language should be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. Students will not harass, insult, or threaten others via Internet usage. A good rule to follow is never view, send or access materials that you would not want your teachers and parents to see. Should students encounter such material by accident, they should turn off the monitor (not the computer) and report it to an adult immediately.

1. Students may not use a computer to harm other people or their work.
2. Students will not damage the computer or the network in any way.
3. Students will not interfere with the operation of the network by installing illegal software, shareware or freeware.
4. Students will not violate copyright laws.
5. Students will not view, send or display offensive messages or pictures.
6. Students will not share their password with another person.
7. Students will not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.
8. Students will not trespass in another student's folders, work or files.
9. Students will notify an adult immediately, if by accident, they encounter materials that violate the Rules of Appropriate Use.
10. Students will not access chat rooms or blog sites.
11. Students will not send or access personal emails.

Students are accountable for their actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated. Parent signatures must be on file in the school for a child to use the Fast Direct and Internet at SS. Peter and Paul School. The school reserves the right to use student pictures in publications and on the school's website. Any parent who does not wish his or her child's picture used must notify the principal in writing prior to the beginning of the school year.

Consequences for improper Internet use may include being removed from the privilege of taking Accelerated Reader Quizzes for one or more grading periods, being removed from leadership positions in a school club, detention and/or conduct grade of an U in one or more subjects. Violation of these rules may result in the loss of network privileges at SS. Peter and Paul Catholic School, Collinsville, Illinois.