

Use of Computers and Internet Resources

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Due to the nature of the Internet, it is neither practical nor possible for Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MECDHH) & the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to enforce compliance with user rules at all times. Accordingly, parents and students must recognize that students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet. Therefore, parents must participate in the decision whether to allow their children access to the Internet and must communicate their own expectations to their children regarding its use.

As a parent/guardian of _____, I have read the attached School Board policy, **Use of Computers and Internet Resources**, and the Administrative Procedures outlined on the **Student Internet Access Agreement**.

- I understand that Internet access is designed for educational purposes and that the school will attempt to discourage access to objectionable material and communications. However, I recognize it is impossible for MECDHH & the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf to restrict access to all objectionable materials, and I will not hold the school responsible for materials acquired or contacts made on the network.
- I understand that a variety of inappropriate and offensive materials are available over the Internet and that it may be possible for my child to access these materials if s/he chooses to behave irresponsibly. I also understand that it is possible for undesirable or ill-intended individual to communicate with my child over the Internet, that there is no practical means for the school to prevent this from happening, and that my child must take responsibility to avoid such communications if they are initiated. While I authorize the staff to monitor any communications to or from my child on the Internet, I recognize that it is not possible for the school to monitor all such communications. I have determined that the educational benefits of my child having access to the Internet outweigh potential risks.
- I understand that any inappropriate conduct by my child that is in conflict with these responsibilities may result in termination of access and possible disciplinary action.
- I have reviewed these responsibilities with my child, and I hereby grant permission to the school to provide Internet access.

RELEASE ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS

In consideration of my child being permitted access to the Internet on MECDHH & the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf computers, I/we agree to assume all risk of injury, harm or damage in his/her person, whether physical or emotional, or property, including harm caused by the negligence of the MECDHH & the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, its School Board, its employees and agents arising out of his/her use of the school's Internet access. It is further agreed to release and to indemnify and hold harmless the school from any and all liability, actions, damages, and claims of any kind or nature whatsoever, including liability arising out of the negligence of the school, for injury, harm or damage to his/her person or property that may arise out of his/her use of the school's Internet access. This agreement must be signed and renewed each year and kept on file at the school.

Student's Name: (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please sign, date and return this letter and the attached **Student Internet Access Agreement** to the Superintendent's Office. If you have any questions about the policy, please call my office.

Student Internet Access Agreement

I agree to abide by the MECDHH & the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf Administrative Procedures for acceptable use of the Internet as stated in this agreement. I understand the use of the Internet is a privilege, **not** a right.

I agree:

- To use the Internet network for appropriate educational purposes and research;
- To be considerate of other users on the network and follow network etiquette rules;
- To not intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet network services or equipment. This includes, but is not limited to tampering with the computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws and;
- To immediately report any security problems or use violations to the person responsible for the school network.

I understand that I have no guarantee to privacy when I use the school Internet network, and I consent to the monitoring of my communications.

I also understand that any conduct that is inappropriate may result in termination of my school Internet access and possible disciplinary action.

Student's Name: (please print) _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): (please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

The MECDHH & the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf make no assurances of any kind, whether expressed or implied, regarding any Internet services provided. The school will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The school specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy of quality of information or software obtained through its services. This agreement must be signed and renewed each year and kept on file at the school.
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USE OF STUDENT COMPUTERS AND INTERNET RESOURCES

The MECDHH & the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf School Board, hereinafter referred to as the “Board,” believed that the use of the computers in instructional programs is an educational tool which facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing and access to information. Due to the complex nature of accessible networks and magnitude of potential information available to students utilizing computers and the Internet, the Board believes strict guidelines in the form of administrative procedures are warranted in order to reduce or limit potential negative effects. The global and fluid nature of the Internet’s networks contents make it impossible for the Board to completely regulate and monitor the information available to students. Although students will be under teacher supervision while on the network, it is impossible to constantly monitor all individual students and the information that students may retrieve via the Internet.

Students utilizing the computers and the Internet shall comply with the administrative procedures regarding computers and Internet use. The Board, via its administrators, reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by students. Privacy is not guaranteed. **The school administration will establish procedures that will ensure no unreasonable restriction of student communication with parents/guardians.**

In addition, use of computers and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. As such, students violating this Board’s policy/administrative procedure shall be subject to revocation of privileges and potential disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action.

Parents shall be required to sign a permission form allowing their students to access the computers and the Internet. Students shall also be required to sign an acknowledgment affirming that they have read and understand the Board’s policy/administrative procedure on “Use of Computers and Internet Resources” and understand the consequences for the violation of said policy/administrative procedure.
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This copy is yours to keep.

Adopted: December 11, 1997