

MECDHH/GBSD
Use of Computers and Internet Resources Form
2021-2022 School Year

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 and attached School Board policy, ***Students Use of Computers and Internet Resources***, and the Administrative Procedures outlined in 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 she/he chooses to behave irresponsibly. I also understand that it is possible for undesirable or ill-intended individuals 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 the 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.

Student Internet Access Agreement

I agree to abide by 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
- 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.

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 or quality of information or software obtained through its services. This agreement must be signed and renewed each year and kept on file at school.

In consideration of my child being permitted access to the Internet on Governor Baxter School for the Deaf computers, I/we agree to assume all risk of injury, harm or damage to his/her person, whether physical or emotional, property, including harm caused by negligence of the GBSD, its School Board, its employees and agents arising out of his/her use of the school's Internet access. This agreement must be signed and renewed each year and kept on the file at school.

Student's Name: *(please print)* _____

Student's Signature*: _____ Date: _____

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

Parent/Guardian Signature*: _____ Date: _____

*The parties agree that the electronic signature of a party to this Agreement shall be as valid as an original signature of such party and shall be effective to bind such party to this Agreement.

STUDENTS' USE OF COMPUTERS AND INTERNET RESOURCES (POLICY)

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 negatives effect. The global and fluid nature of the Internet networks' contents makes 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 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 procedures shall be subject to revocation of privileges and potential disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action.