

**DIOCESE OF DAVENPORT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SERIES 600: EDUCATION PROGRAMS

POLICY 615.1

INTERNET SAFETY POLICY/APPROPRIATE STUDENT USE POLICY

The Diocesan Board of Education recognizes that access to technology in schools and parishes gives students greater opportunities to learn, engage, communicate, and develop skills that will prepare them for work, life, service, growth opportunities in the Catholic faith, and Christian citizenship. The schools of the diocese are committed to helping students develop 21st-century technology and communication skills.

Prior to use of any school owned technology, students will be provided instruction regarding these or the local schools' policies and regulations regarding the use of technology.

Technologies covered

The Diocese of Davenport schools may provide internet access, desktop computers, mobile computers or devices, videoconferencing capabilities, online collaboration capabilities, message boards, email, and more. As new technologies become available, the schools of the Diocese of Davenport will attempt to provide access, if the technologies are deemed educationally appropriate and beneficial to further understanding the Catholic faith. The policies outlined in this document are intended to cover all available technologies, not just those specifically listed.

Internet-Appropriate use

To safeguard the Internet and its users, the Diocese requires that the following regulations be enforced by the system administrators of each Internet access site in the Diocese:

This policy represents the Diocese of Davenport's good-faith efforts to promote safe, ethical, responsible, and legal use of the internet, support the effective use of the internet for educational purposes, protect students against potential dangers in their use of the internet, and ensure accountability.

The Diocese of Davenport schools' Internet system has an educational purpose and has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The local diocesan school has the right to place restrictions on its use to ensure that use of the system is in accord with its education purpose. Any network or computer may be monitored for improper use, network diagnosis and virus detection.

Along with the inherent freedom of the Internet comes the possibility of accessing material that is not consistent with the Catholic faith. Although precautions should be taken to restrict access to controversial materials, such access may still be possible. The schools of the Diocese of Davenport have the right to place restrictions on use to ensure that use of the technology systems is in accord with its educational purpose.

Transmission or intended reception of any material in violation of any national, state, or local regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities, product advertisement, or political lobbying is prohibited. Intended transmission or reception of material that would tend to violate the moral teaching of the Catholic Church or be scandalous to the Church is also prohibited.

Filtering Software

Policy Adopted: September 13, 2001

Policy Revised: June 5, 2002

Policy Amended: May 17, 2010

Policy Reviewed: August 2016

Policy Amended: October 25, 2018

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The Diocese requires the use of filtering software or services on all school computers with access to the Internet. When minors are using the Internet, access to visual depictions must be blocked or filtered if they are: (a) obscene, as that term is defined in [Section 1460 of Title 18, United States Code](#); (b) child pornography, as that term is defined in [Section 2256 of Title 18, United States Code](#); or (c) harmful to minors. Schools cannot disable the filters when minors are using them, even with parental or teacher permission and supervision. Appropriate school staff may disable filters only for adults who are using school computers for bona fide research purposes. Schools must monitor minors' use of the Internet in school.

Internet information is assumed to be private property but is not guaranteed to be confidential. The dissemination of credit card information is prohibited unless a secure system of encryption is available.

Attempts to disrupt the use of the network by destroying data of another user or of the network is prohibited. Attempts to use system administrator access rights or another user's account without written permission are prohibited. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the Internet.

All computers should continuously run anti-virus software while in operation. Any information downloaded from the Internet should be scanned for viruses before use.

The Diocese of Davenport makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, that the functions or services provided by or through the local school Internet system will be error-free or without defect. The local school is not responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to loss of data, interruptions of service, or exposure to inappropriate material or people. Neither the local school nor the Diocese of Davenport will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of the information obtained through the system.

The Diocese of Davenport and the local school will not be responsible for any financial obligations arising through unauthorized use of the system. Students may not use the system for personnel commercial purposes. Including offering or purchasing products or services. Users or parents of users will indemnify and hold the Diocese of Davenport and local school harmless from any losses sustained as a result of misuse of the system by that user.

Schools in the Diocese of Davenport will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation involving or relating to any unlawful activities conducted through the individual diocesan school Internet system.

Supervision

Student use of the internet system in a school will be supervised by staff in a manner that is appropriate to the age of the students and circumstances of use. Computers used by students in classrooms and labs will be positioned to facilitate effective staff supervision. Student use and activities will be structured in a manner that is appropriate to the age and skill of students, recognizing the importance of providing more secure environments for younger students and supporting safe and responsible independent use by older students.

Local schools may utilize an extended day computer lab with access to the internet for non-educational purposes. All students in extended day programs will be closely supervised and must follow the rules and regulations that apply to internet use during class time.

Inappropriate Material

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Students shall not intentionally access or download any text, file, or pictorial material, information or software, or engage in any conference or other online activity that includes material that is illegal, defamatory, obscene, pornographic, libelous, indecent, vulgar, profane, or lewd or is otherwise harmful to minors; advertises any product or services not permitted to minors by law; constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses others; or presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution, it will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities or will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school regulations.

Personal Devices

Each school in the Diocese of Davenport will determine its own policy when determining if personally-owned devices (including laptops, tablets, smartphones, and cell phones) are allowed for use during school time. If allowed, such personally-owned devices should not interfere with the delivery of instruction by a teacher or create a disturbance in the educational environment. Any misuse of personally owned devices will result in disciplinary action outlined in the student handbook or code of conduct. Proper etiquette and adherence to the acceptable use policy should always be followed.

Downloads

Users should not download or attempt to download or run programs over the school network or onto school resources without the express permission of the instructional staff or IT staff. For the security of the school network, download such files only from reputable sites, and only for educational purposes.

Cyberbullying Policy:

Cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Harassing, dissing, flaming, denigrating, impersonating, outing, tricking, excluding, and cyberstalking are all examples of cyberbullying. Don't send emails or post comments with the intent of scaring, hurting or intimidating someone else.

Engaging in these behaviors, or any online activities intended to harm (physically or emotionally) another person, will result in severe disciplinary action and loss of privileges. In some cases, cyberbullying can be a crime. Remember that all activities are monitored and retained.

Violations of the Acceptable Use Policy

Schools will determine consequences for violating the acceptable use policy. Such consequences may include the following disciplinary actions:

- Suspension of network, technology or computer privileges
- Notification of parents in most cases
- Detention or suspension from school and school related activities
- Legal action or prosecution

Limitation of Liability

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The Diocese of Davenport and the local school will not be responsible for damage or harm to persons, files, data, or hardware. While the Diocese of Davenport and the local school employs filtering and other safety mechanisms, and attempts to ensure their proper function, it makes no guarantees as to their effectiveness. The Diocese of Davenport and the local school will not be responsible financially or otherwise, for unauthorized transactions conducted over the school network.

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