

St. Teresa of Avila School

Policy for the Responsible Use of Technology 2009-2010

Catholic schools are using new technologies, electronic resources, and Internet access to enhance student learning and to provide a quality educational experience for all students. The schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati as well as the other diocesan schools in Ohio have been provided with Internet connectivity through Data Acquisition Sites located throughout the state. This project is partially funded by the Legislature of the State of Ohio. Therefore, Internet access and activities utilizing all other technologies in the schools are strictly limited to educational purposes.

In keeping with the mission of the Catholic schools to promote values for a lifetime, the schools will monitor, instruct about, and guard against inappropriate, unethical, and illegal use of technology by the student or adult user.

1. General Computer Use

Computer users are prohibited from:

- Damaging computers, printers, network components, or furnishings
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files
- Using another's password
- Violating copyright laws by copying files or programs illegally
- Using obscene language or harassing or insulting others
- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Loading software programs other than those provided by the school

2. Agreement Form

In order to ensure the proper use of technological resources, it is necessary that each user (and his/her parents, if the user is under 18 years of age) annually sign the attached **Responsible Use of Technology Policy-User Agreement Form**. The signed form must be on file at the school before Internet access is permitted. Signing the form indicates that the user will abide by the rules governing Internet and other technology access as stated in this policy.

3. Policy

All schools must have on file a signed **Responsible Use of Technology Policy – User Agreement Form** for any student* and/or adult (administrators, faculty and staff members, parents, volunteers, and other school-affiliated adults) using a school's technology resources, school's Internet account, school-sponsored account, or personal account to access the Internet. All Internet access and use of other electronic communication technology is strictly limited to educational purposes. Students (including those 18 and over) are not allowed to access personal accounts from school. School personnel (administrators, faculty and staff members) are allowed to access personal accounts at school but are subject to the provisions of the Responsible Use of Technology Policy. Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati adhere to the Children's Internet Protection Act. Individual schools may be further governed by the policies of the Instructional Technology Centers or other Internet Service Providers. The school has right of access to any electronic devices on school property. All information received or sent from school property remains the property of the school and is not considered confidential. The school reserves the right to investigate the download history of all school computers. There shall be no reasonable expectation of privacy. *The term student applies to any individual enrolled in the school regardless of age.

4. School Responsibility

The school shall provide access to technological resources, including Internet, for educational purposes only. The school shall also provide training for students and teachers in the appropriate use of technology. The school does not guarantee the accuracy of information gathered from school computers. The school shall take measures to provide for the safety and security of minors, supervise and monitor student access to all technological resources provided by the school, and guard against the access of objectionable material, in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors is forbidden.

5. User Responsibility

The user shall access the school's technological resources for educational purposes only. Each user is responsible for information that is sent and received under his/her personal and/or school Internet account. Passwords are to be guarded and not displayed nor shared with others. The user must strictly adhere to copyright laws. In addition, unethical and/or illegal uses of electronic devices will not be allowed. Unauthorized access, including hacking or use of another person's account, is strictly forbidden. The user agrees not to bypass the school firewall, nor to harm or alter school property. The user agrees not to pirate nor to submit, publish, and/or display any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, racially offensive or otherwise illegal material, on or off school property; nor shall the user encourage the use, sale, or distribution of controlled substances. Any use in violation of any local, state, or federal law is prohibited and is a breach of the terms and conditions of this policy. Also, any commercial use is strictly forbidden.

6. Disciplinary Action

The school may take disciplinary action against school personnel, including students, who violate the Responsible Use of Technology Policy or other school or archdiocesan policies by means of inappropriate use of technology. Disciplinary action may also be taken against those who use telecommunication devices to cause mental or physical distress to other members of the school community, whether these incidents take place on or off the school property. Disciplinary action taken by school authorities may include revocation of access to technological resources, suspension, expulsion, and/or possible legal action.

Note: St. Teresa of Avila School and the Archdiocese of Cincinnati reserve the right to modify this policy.

Responsible Use of Technology

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User (Student and Adult) Agreement Form 2009-2010

- I have read the terms and conditions of the **Responsible Use of Technology**.
- I understand that technological resources are provided for educational purposes only.
- I agree to abide by the terms and conditions stated in the **Responsible Use of Technology Policy**. Additionally, I will be responsible for the consequences of inappropriate use of technology, including the Internet, both on and off school property. I understand that consequences may include suspension or revocation of privileges to access the Internet and/or other technological resources, suspension, expulsion, and possible legal action.

User Name (print) _____

School _____

User Signature _____

Date _____

Grade _____

Homeroom _____

Parental Permission Form

(If the Internet user is under 18 years of age, parental permission is necessary)

I have read the terms and conditions of the **Responsible Use of Technology Policy**. I am requesting that the above named student be allowed to use the school's technological resources, including the Internet, and agree to support the school in the Responsible Use of Technology Policy.

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____