

Pride Academy Charter School

2010-2011 Computer and Internet Use Policy For Staff and Students

General Computer and Network Use

Pride Academy believes that the use of technology and computer-assisted communications is vital to our students' success. It is the responsibility of our educators to foster an understanding of appropriate technology and to teach those technological skills necessary to promote academic excellence. The proper use of technology and technological skills will be integrated into our instructional programs when learning is enhanced by its use.

Pride Academy encourages the use of computer-assisted communications such as the Internet when it supports our curriculum and advances the learning process. The Internet provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world. Pride Academy does not control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available may be controversial and/or inappropriate for Pride Academy students.

Preserving access to computers and the Internet is a community effort that requires each student, parent, and teacher to act responsibly and guard against abuses. Therefore, both the community as a whole and each user have an obligation to abide by the following standards of acceptable and ethical use:

All Users Shall

- Use the school computers and Internet access for classes and assignments as indicated by a teacher.
- Use only the network accounts which you are authorized to use and use them only for their intended purpose.
- Be responsible for protecting our computer systems by not sharing your password with anyone, inside or outside the Pride Academy community.
- Respect the privacy and personal rights of others.
- Follow the instructions of your teacher or the lead computer teacher regarding access and use of online information.
- Report any misuse, malfunctioning equipment or missing parts to your teacher or the lead computer teacher.
- Abide by applicable laws and school policies and respect the copyrights and intellectual property rights of others including the legal use of copyrighted software.

Users Shall Not:

- Do not use material from a web site without permission of the owner of that site. That is a violation of copyright law.
- Do not include material copied from a web site in an assignment handed in to a teacher without proper citations. That is plagiarism.
- Do not load or download software on the school network or on individual school computers without the express permission of Pride's lead computer teacher.
- Do not change the system configuration on a school computer.
- Do not use the school network to access files that might, in any way, harm the school network.
- Do not obtain or use anyone else's password.
- Do not pretend to be someone you are not, such as a celebrity or another Pride Academy community member.
- Do not use the school network to maliciously develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system.
- Do not use the school network for personal financial gain.
- Do not use the school network to run your own business.
- Do not use the school network for any illegal purpose.
- Do not use the school network to send hate mail, or for the purpose of harassment, discrimination or other antisocial behaviors.
- Do not use the school network to access pornography of any kind.
- Do not use curse words or language which may be offensive or threatening to another user.
- Do not intentionally search for materials on the Internet or school network that are inappropriate for your age, grade level or academic objective.
- Never give personal information including your name, address or phone number to anyone on the Internet without permission of a teacher.

Teachers are responsible for monitoring student use when the student is under their supervision.

Pride Academy Charter School expects all users to exercise ethical and legal behavior when using the school's network and resources. Consequences for violations may range from temporary loss of Internet access and /or other computer use to expulsion. Disciplinary actions may be determined consistent with existing policies and regulations concerning staff or student conduct. Where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

All Pride Academy students and parents are required to sign an agreement to adhere to school policies and procedures before a student is allowed to access the Internet.

Internet Safety Policy

The primary goals of the Pride Academy Internet policy include the following: 1) to promote and ensure the welfare and the safety of our students when using the Internet; 2) to provide Internet access so all staff and students can become effective and safe Internet users; 3) to extend their awareness and knowledge of the Internet; and 4) to become motivated, responsible, independent users of the Internet.

Use of the Internet facilities at Pride Academy is primarily for educational purposes. This includes personal use and use for professional development of staff.

All students must sign the Acceptable Use Policy AND have the signed permission of a parent/caregiver before using the Internet at school. These documents must be kept on file by the school.

All student access to the Internet must be supervised by either a teacher or another staff member. This also applies to any special use before or after school hours.

Students and staff will be provided with e-mail accounts. All student e-mail messages sent and received on the school's computer network may be monitored and are subject to review. All e-mail messages will be archived for review at a later date, if necessary.

Names and photographs of students will only be used with parental permission, as granted on the Publicity Release Form. No other personal information shall be posted. Students' work, including their first name and grade level, may be posted on sites hosted by the school's local network. Student work, without full name, may be posted on Web 2.0 web sites (wiki, blogs, digital storytelling, and video). Photographs/images of students will not be identified by individual names.

Only authorized webmasters may post on sites hosted by Pride Academy Charter School.

All student workstations must have filtered access to the Internet. The level of filtering is determined by Pride Academy. Since no filtering system is 100% foolproof, if inappropriate sites are inadvertently accessed, then the student must notify his/her teacher immediately. In turn, the teacher must contact the Principal so that the offending website can be submitted to the Technology Department for blocking.

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I have reviewed the Computer and Internet Use Policy and will adhere to these guidelines:

Student's Name (Please print): _____

Student's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Authorization

I have reviewed the Pride Academy Charter School Computer and Internet Use Policy with my child (Name) _____ and agree to support it and enforce it with my child.

Parent/Guardian's Name (Please Print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

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2010-11 Computer and Internet Use Policy for Staff and Teachers

I have reviewed the Computer and Internet Use Policy and will adhere to these guidelines:

Name (Please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____
