

## **INTERNET USE**

The Caldwell County Board of Education believes that students and staff should be afforded ample opportunity to access valuable data and information available on the Internet, an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers around the world. The Internet provides a variety of information and resources to our schools. As teachers and students will be able to examine numerous libraries, databases, and bulletin boards globally while maintaining dialogue with other Internet users. The basic purpose in providing Internet access is to improve educational performance and communication for our students.

With accessibility to boundless information and people worldwide comes the possibility of users procuring materials which may be considered controversial or offensive. The Caldwell County Schools does not condone the use of such information and will take all reasonable precautions necessary to prevent access to this type of information. School staff will constantly monitor students using the Internet by using software programs to block portions of materials, providing adult supervision and training students to responsibly use Internet service to help insure that the information being accessed is of educational value and appropriate in content. The Caldwell County Schools believes that the need to access valuable educational material and interaction with other individuals on a global scale far outweighs the possibility that users may procure information inconsistent with our goals. Therefore, students will be given the **privilege** of using the Internet, but will also assume the responsibility of using it appropriately.

### **ACCEPTABLE USE**

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Violations of school rules regarding Internet use can result in loss of access, disciplinary action or legal proceedings. Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to:

- X Violating copyright laws
- X Reposing (forwarding) personal communications without the author's proper consent
- X Receiving, sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- X Illegal use of data in folders or work files
- X Using another person's ID/password
- X Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- X Vandalism of computer, software, or networks including uploading, creating, or transmitting computer viruses as well as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment and/or data
- X Employing the network for commercial purposes
- X Distributing material protected by trade secret
- X Providing political or campaign information.

## **NETWORK RULES OF ETIQUETTE:**

All Internet users **must** abide by the following incomplete rules of etiquette:

- X Be polite - rudeness is never acceptable.
- X Use appropriate language - swearing, vulgarity or any other abusive or inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- X Keep your personal address/phone number or those of anyone else strictly confidential.
- X Never disrupt use of the network.
- X Assume that all communications and information accessible via the network is private property.
- X Never reveal credit or checking account information or social security numbers.
- X Do not attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment.

## **DISCLAIMER:**

The Caldwell County Schools will not be responsible for any damage, including the loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, service interruptions, or inaccurate information. The user accepts personal responsibility for any information obtained or delivered via the network, including the sharing of personal information such as home address, etc.

## **SECURITY:**

Security is and will continue to be a high priority. Attempts to log in the system under an assumed or false identification or to share a password will result in cancellation of user privileges and other action as deemed appropriate. If a security problem is identified, please notify the system administrator at the school, but do not share the problem with others. Electronic mail is not intended to be private as system operators have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the authorities. It is everyone's responsibility to use the Internet in an approved and appropriate manner.

To be eligible to earn the privilege of Internet use the student must (1) return to the principal or his designee the proper agreement form including a signature by a parent or guardian, (2) adhere to the agreement at all times, and (3) follow stated procedures and rules defined by individual schools. No student may use the Internet without having filed a properly signed agreement form.