

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTING SYSTEMS BY STUDENTS

Newport News Public Schools provides a wide range of computing systems to students to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating research, resource sharing, communications, creativity, and collaboration. The use of these computing systems shall be consistent with School Board Policy IJND – Technology Acceptable Use.

For the purposes of this document, “computing systems” refers to all electronic tools that have relevant uses for education, including but not limited to computing hardware, software, peripherals, networks, network resources, electronic files, and Internet access. All NNPS computing systems are the property of the division and are intended for conducting official school and/or division business only.

Acceptable use of NNPS computing systems by students is defined as use for educational purposes and in ways that adhere to the policies and procedures present in the division as well as to applicable state and Federal laws. Unacceptable use of NNPS computing systems includes but is not limited to harassment, solicitation, threatening, bullying, communicating obscenities, engaging in commerce, gambling, and accessing prohibited materials. Further comments about acceptable and unacceptable use are outlined in the bullet points below.

Computer and Internet Safety

- ★ Students will be educated in safe and productive practices for using NNPS computing systems by their teacher or another appropriate employee. Students should exercise good judgment at all times when using the systems.

Communication and Content Privacy

- ★ Any student communications that are made using NNPS computing systems carry no expectation of privacy.
- ★ Authorized employees may review any student’s communications or any electronic content created by the student using NNPS computing systems for the purpose of monitoring adherence to acceptable use and do not need the student’s permission to do so.

Security

- ★ Students shall only use their own division-provided accounts or specially-designated general-use accounts to access NNPS computing systems and shall not share their accounts with any other students.
- ★ Students shall only access NNPS computing systems in ways or for purposes as specifically directed by authorized employees.

Copyright

- ★ Any copyrighted materials accessed through NNPS computing systems remain copyrighted and may be subject to the Fair Use provisions of copyrighted law as they relate to education. Information concerning Fair Use can be found in each school library.

Undesirable Materials

- ★ While students are accessing NNPS computing systems, the division will take all reasonable precautions to restrict students’ access to undesirable materials. However, students must also accept responsibility for avoiding access to such materials when possible.
- ★ Students who gain access to undesirable materials via NNPS computing systems shall alert their teacher or another appropriate employee for reporting to the building administrator and/or Technology.

Software

- ★ Only division approved software shall be loaded on NNPS computing systems. No software shall be downloaded from the Internet and/or installed on any NNPS computing system unless expressly arranged by Technology.

Social Networking Technologies

- ★ Nothing in the aspect of, access to, or operation of social networking technologies (whether in the form of software, websites, hardware, or other technologies) shall exempt students from the same procedures and responsibilities established elsewhere in this document.
- ★ Additionally, students shall take all reasonable care to protect their personal information while using social networking technologies.

Commercial Use

- ★ Commercial use of NNPS computing systems by students is prohibited.

Personal Devices and the Division Network

- ★ Following established guidelines, students may secure permission from their teacher or another authorized employee to connect their own personal devices to an NNPS network.
- ★ The use of personal devices does not exempt students from following all the rules and procedures established in this document, in School Board policies, or in the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.
- ★ Students found to have used personal devices on an NNPS network for inappropriate purposes may have their privileges to use the network revoked, among other consequences.

Reporting

- ★ If a student becomes aware of any security problem (such as any compromise of the confidentiality of any login or account information) or misuse of NNPS computing systems, he/she shall immediately report such information to the teacher or other school official.

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

Reference School Board Policy and Procedures IJND for the complete Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

The Parent/Legal Guardian may withdraw permission by providing written notice to the school.