

BLUFFTON-HARRISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTERNET/COMPUTER USE AGREEMENT

(Please read this document carefully before signing.)

Internet access is now available, on a limited basis, to students and teachers in the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District. We are very pleased to bring this access to Bluffton-Harrison MSD and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Because we view the Internet to be an electronic information source, access to the Internet will be coordinated through the schools' library information centers.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

- 1) electronic mail communication with people all over the world.
- 2) information and news from NASA, as well as the opportunity to correspond with the scientists at NASA and other research institutions.
- 3) public domain software and shareware of all types.
- 4) discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture, to the environment, to music, to politics.
- 5) access to many University Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress, and ERIC.

With access to computers and people all over the world, also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Bluffton-Harrison MSD has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the District.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Bluffton-Harrison MSD user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicates the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

INTERNET/COMPUTER - TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) **Acceptable Use** - The purpose of NSFNET, which is the backbone network to the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Bluffton-Harrison MSD. Use of other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state 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 is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

- 2) **Privileges** - The use of the Internet/computer is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. (Each student/ staff member who receives an account will be part of a discussion with a Bluffton Harrison MSD faculty member pertaining to the proper use of the network.) The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the system administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of Bluffton-Harrison MSD may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.

- 3) **Network Etiquette** - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a) Be polite. Do not get abusive in your messages to others.
 - b) Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
 - c) Do not reveal your personal address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
 - d) Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - e) Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.

 - f) All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.

- 4) **Disclaimer** - Bluffton-Harrison MSD makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Bluffton Harrison MSD will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or your errors or

omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. Bluffton-Harrison MSD specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

5) Security - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the system, you must notify a system administrator or your District Internet Coordinator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to logon to the system as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to computers.

6) Prohibitions - Users of the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District's Internet resources and computer accounts may not:

- a. Access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit materials.
- b. Transmit obscene, abusive, or sexually explicit language.
- c. Violate any local, state, or federal statute.
- d. Vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another person or organization. This would include uploading or downloading e-mail attachments and executable files infected with a virus.
- e. Access another person's materials information, or files without the implied or direct permission of that person.
- f. Violate copyright, or otherwise use another person's intellectual property without his or her prior approval or proper citation.

INTERNET/COMPUTER USE AGREEMENT

I understand and will abide by the above Internet/Computer Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action.

User Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

(If you are under the age of 18 a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.)

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet/Computer Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. Bluffton-Harrison MSD has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for Bluffton-Harrison MSD to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give permission to issue an account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SPONSORING TEACHER

(Must be signed if the applicant is a student)

I have read the Internet/Computer Use Agreement and agree to promote this agreement with the student. Because the student may use the network for individual work or in the context of another class, I cannot be held responsible for the student use of the network. As the sponsoring teacher, I do agree to instruct the student on acceptable use of the network and proper network etiquette.

Teacher's Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Source: Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan School District
Adopted: August, 1995
Revised: January 22, 2001