

SHAMOKIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY - STUDENTS AND STAFF 3940/6920

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 information in electronic form from all over the world. Information is available from research institutions, materials in the public domain, and Usenet discussion groups. Access is provided to university library catalogs, to the Library of Congress, and other research databases. Communication and information access is not strictly person to person.

With access to computers and people all over the world comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting, pornographic information and pictures, and other inappropriate materials that exist on the Internet. On a global network it is impossible to control access to offensive materials and a user may, therefore, discover controversial information. The Shamokin Area School District firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on both internal and worldwide networks far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the school. However, at the same time, the Shamokin Area School District recognizes the need to control access to materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the school.

To facilitate appropriate use and provide a measure of protection, Shamokin Area School District employs content filtering software on its network to examine all incoming and outgoing web site requests. The software is a proprietary product that updates itself automatically during the life of the software contract. The filtering technology is user-independent and filters all Internet access originating from both administrative and academic computers. The software can be modified to allow or disallow access to certain sites as deemed necessary by the administration. Shamokin Area School District adheres to the *Protecting Children of the 21st Century Act* and will educate minors about appropriate online behavior.

The smooth operation of the Internet and the Shamokin Area School District's internal network rely upon the proper conduct of the end users that must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that end users are aware of their responsibilities. If users violate any of these provisions, access to the Shamokin Area School

District network will be terminated immediately, and future access may be denied.

Signing this document indicates that the end user has read the policy and agrees to abide by the terms.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Acceptable Use** - The purpose of the Shamokin Area School District's Internet connection and internal network is to support research and education among academic institutions worldwide by providing access to unique resources and opportunity for collaborative work. The use of an account at the Shamokin Area School District must be in support of education and research, and consistent with the educational objectives of the school. Transmission of any materials in violation of any US 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 and for-profit institutions are not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited. Use of the Internet and the Shamokin Area School District's internal network shall be limited to educational and instructional purposes related to the class curriculum of the particular user and for no other purpose. A teacher shall supervise student use.
2. **Privileges** -The use of Shamokin Area School District's internal network and Internet connection is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges.
3. **Netiquette** -Users 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 send abusive messages. b.) Use appropriate language. Do not use profanity or vulgarities. c.) Do not reveal your personal address, phone number, social security number, or those of other students or colleagues. d.) Note that electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all

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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 could disrupt the use of the network for other users.

4. **Security** - Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If the user feels he/she can identify a security problem, that user must share that problem with the Shamokin Area School District Business Office. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account. Do not seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users. Do not misrepresent other users on the network. Attempts to log in as a system operator, or the violations of any security guidelines, will result in a cancellation of privileges.
5. **Vandalism** -Vandalism will result in immediate cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, hardware or software associated with the computer system. This also includes the creation or transmission of computer viruses. The downloading and installation of software that does not provide a direct educational benefit or is not consistent with the educational mission of the district is strictly prohibited and will be considered vandalism. Shamokin Area School District reserves the right to expect monetary reimbursement for any and all damages incurred to the system.
6. **Copyright** - The illegal use of copyrighted software, including copying, uploading and downloading, is prohibited.

CONCLUSION

Shamokin Area School District recognizes that its students and staff have a wide range of needs and requirements. Internet and internal network access provides a relatively unrestricted and flexible means to meet those needs and requirements. To this end, the school relies on the integrity of the user to follow the guidelines of this policy.

To view the Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources policy in its entirety, please submit your request to the Superintendent's Office.

**NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
USER AGREEMENT
SIGNATURES**

I have read the Network Acceptable Use Policy for the Shamokin Area School District and understand its contents. Any questions I have about the policy and the computer system have been answered by the administration and/or technology staff.

My signature below means that I agree to follow the guidelines of the policy.

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

IF ACCOUNT IS FOR A STUDENT:

EXPECTED GRADUATION YEAR: _____

NAME OF PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S):

**PARENT(S) OR GUARDIAN(S)
SIGNATURE:**

DATE:
