

## **Acceptable Use Policy for Technology (AUP)**

### **Mercedes Independent School District**

You are being given access to the Mercedes Independent School District's electronic communications system. Through this system, you will be able to communicate with other schools, colleges, organizations, and people around the world through the Internet and other electronic information systems/networks. You will have access to hundreds of databases, libraries, and computer services all over the world.

With this opportunity comes responsibility. It is important that you read the District Acceptable Use Policy, ask questions if you need help in understanding them, and sign the agreement form. It will be your responsibility to follow the rules for appropriate use. Inappropriate system use will result in the loss of the privilege of using this educational and administrative tool.

Please note that the Internet is a network of many types of communication and information networks. It is possible that you may run across some material you might find objectionable. While Mercedes ISD will use filtering technology to restrict access to such material, it is not possible to absolutely prevent such access. It will be your responsibility to follow the rules for appropriate use. Students are also allowed to bring their own connectivity via a mobile device, however these devices are not eligible for technical support and must adhere to these acceptable use guidelines while on school grounds. The school or district is not responsible for students who bring their own internet connectivity via air-cards or data-plan on a mobile device.

#### **ACCEPTABLE USE**

Any use described below is deemed "acceptable" and consistent with the Mercedes ISD Acceptable Use Policy for Technology. The final decision regarding whether any given use of the network or Internet is acceptable lies with the Superintendent or designee.

- Use is mainly for educational purposes, but some limited personal use is permitted. (Remember that people who receive e-mail from you with a District address might mistakenly infer that your message represents the District's point of view)
- Use for educational and administrative purposes, goals, and objectives of Mercedes ISD
- Use is limited to your own individual account - you and only you should use that account. You should not share your password with Others.
- Use furthers research related to education and instruction
- Use does not violate the student code of conduct or employee standards of conduct

## UNACCEPTABLE USE

Any of the following uses is deemed “unacceptable” and a violation of the Mercedes ISD Acceptable Use Policy for Technology. The final decision regarding whether any given use of the network or Internet is acceptable lies with the Superintendent or designee. **Disciplinary action may be taken for unacceptable use of the network or Internet.**

- Unauthorized use of copyrighted material, including violating district software licensing agreements
- Sending or posting electronic messages that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal
- Use of technology resources such as chat rooms, social sites, and games in a manner that causes disruption to the educational program
- Use of school technology resources to encourage illegal behavior or threaten school safety
- Use of social media and/or email, on or off campus, personal or otherwise, in violation of the Code of Ethics and Standard Practices for Texas Educators which include any violation of the following; confidentiality of student records, health or personnel information concerning colleagues, district records (including evaluations and private email addresses), copyright law, harming others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the school system.
- Personal, political use to advocate for or against a candidate, officeholder, political party, or political position. Research or electronic communications regarding political issues or candidates shall not be a violation when the activity is to fulfill an assignment for class credit.
- Use of any means to disable or bypass the district’s Internet filtering system or other security systems
- Attempting to destroy, disable or gain access to district computer equipment, district data, the data of other users, or other networks connected to the district’s system, including uploading or creating computer viruses
- Encrypting communications or files to avoid security review
- Posting personal information about yourself or others (such as addresses and phone numbers) other than as needed to conduct school operations
- Forgery of electronic mail messages or transmission of unsolicited junk e-mail
- Use related to commercial activities or for commercial gain
- Use that violates the student code of conduct or employee standards of conduct, or is unlawful
- Wasting school resources through the improper use of the computer system

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE USE**

One or more of the following consequences may be imposed:

- Suspension of access to the system
- Revocation of the computer system account
- Other action, including disciplinary action, in accordance with Board policy and/or the Student Code of Conduct (as applicable)

I understand that my computer use and, if applicable, text messaging and social media with District provided resources, are not private and may be viewed by district officials. I understand that the Mercedes Independent School District will monitor my activity on the computer system. I have read the Mercedes ISD electronic communications system policy and administrative regulations and agree to abide by their provisions. In consideration for the privilege of using the Mercedes ISD electronic communications system and in consideration for having access to the public networks, I hereby release the District, its operators, and any institutions with which they are affiliated from any and all claims and damages of any nature arising from my use of, or inability to use, the system, including, without limitation, the type of damages identified in the District's policy and administrative regulations.

Printed

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Campus \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness (Supervisor or Legal Guardian if Student) \_\_\_\_\_

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