

Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement

The Board of Education is pleased to offer students and staff of the Afton Central School District the privilege of access to computer networks.

Access to the Internet will enable students and staff to explore thousands of libraries, databases, websites and bulletin boards throughout the world. Users are warned that some materials found on the Internet are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate and/or potentially offensive to certain people. While our intent is to further educational goals and objectives, Internet users may find ways to gain entry to objectionable materials as well. We believe, however, that the benefits from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Afton Central School (also referred to as ACS) supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

Statement of Purpose

The efficient, legal and safe operation of computer network and Internet resources (hereinafter referred to as computer resources) depends on all users agreeing to and adhering to certain standards of proper conduct.

The use of these resources is a privilege, not a right. If any Afton Central School user (student, staff or volunteer) violates any of the following guidelines, he/she will be held responsible for the violation and may face disciplinary action and/or loss of access to these resources. Violations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Computer Resource Etiquette, Responsibility and Usage Guidelines

- No one will be granted access to district owned computer resources until a signed **Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement** is on file with the school.
- The use of computer services must be supportive of the educational standards of Afton Central School, and will be consistent with and enhance the overall educational mission.
- Students do not have e-mail accounts and are prohibited from using chat rooms, e-mail, or similar resources while at school unless part of a directed assignment.
- All users who access computer resources will abide by local, state and federal regulations, including copyright laws, licensing laws, privacy laws, school board policies, and local school and district guidelines.
- Computers not owned or managed by Afton Central School are NOT allowed to connect to the network without permission.
- Use of computer resources will be made in accordance with generally accepted rules of etiquette and law. Violations include, but are NOT limited to, accessing, downloading, uploading, receiving, or sending abusive, defamatory, vulgar, sexually-explicit, racist, sexist, violent, or threatening content.
- Users will be held responsible for malicious or intentional damage done to computer resources, software, data, user accounts, or hardware. Users are not allowed to make changes to the hardware and software configurations and settings.
- Attempts to gain access to restricted-use computers, user accounts, software applications or computer services by guessing at user names and passwords, or using software or hardware tools to reveal account and password information is prohibited.

- Any ACS user who becomes aware of a computer security violation (access by an unauthorized user, sharing of passwords, software problems, etc.) is obligated to report it to their teacher or supervisor.
- Do not give out personal information, such as your home address, home telephone number, social security number, credit card number, etc. or those of another person.
- Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with a person or persons you only know from the online contact.
- All users should acknowledge that there is **no expectation of privacy** with respect to any component of network resources.
- All internet and web-based materials created by ACS staff and students using Afton resources (software, hardware, websites, and network) remain the intellectual property of Afton Central School.
- This list is not intended to be comprehensive. Instead, it is intended as an illustration of the rules which should govern good conduct while using the network resources of Afton Central School. Regardless of whether a rule is specifically listed herein, **if the user's conduct while using the resources is unacceptable, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against the violator.**
- The Afton Central School District will ultimately determine whether conduct is unacceptable and what disciplinary action should be taken (including involving federal, state and/or local law enforcement agencies), within the boundaries of all applicable laws and collective bargaining provisions.

LIABILITY

- No supervisor is responsible for students who inadvertently, or purposely, access wrongful material.
- Student data files will be treated like school lockers. Any student files, whether they are on the computer or on removable media, are subject to inspection with reasonable suspicion. The computer coordinator, administrator, teacher, or supervisor has the right to inspect any files at their own discretion. The aforementioned people have the right to view any system components (i.e. web browser history, printer history) of any computer as needed.
- Afton Central School accepts no liability or responsibility for cost related to commercial services accessible on the Internet, or any other costs that may be related to on-line computer access.
- Afton Central School makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. Afton Central School will not be responsible for damages. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or user error or omission. The Afton Central School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet.

STUDENT / STAFF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I understand and will abide by the aforementioned terms and conditions. I further understand that a violation of these terms is unethical and may constitute criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, and school disciplinary and/or legal action may be taken.

Your signature on the Acceptable Use Agreement is legally binding and indicates that the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance. Please return this form with the required signatures to your school. Access to computer network and Internet resources will be withheld until this acknowledgment is returned.

This agreement will remain in effect throughout your career at Afton Central School.

(Student/Staff Signature)

(date)

PARENT / GUARDIAN APPROVAL

If the student is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign this agreement.

As the parent or guardian of the above student, I have read the Computer Network and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that the Afton Central School District has taken precautions to minimize exposure to unacceptable and/or inappropriate materials and uses federally mandated filtering software. I recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all unacceptable and/or inappropriate materials. I will not hold the district responsible for materials acquired via the Afton Central School computer network or Internet. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

This agreement will remain in effect throughout your child's educational career at Afton Central School. Withdrawal of this permission must be in writing and must be filed with the high school office.

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(date)