

Internet/Network Use Policy

Network Use Policy

Internet access is available to students, teachers, staff, board members and congregational members at St. Peter Lutheran Church for church related activities. We are very pleased to bring this access and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources. We know this service will promote Christian learning by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The Internet will provide access to our district, synod, and all their resources along with information from churches, libraries, universities, governments, research groups and companies all over the world. We will be able to send and receive correspondence, files, and pictures to anyone on the Internet anywhere in the world.

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. St. Peter Network 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 inappropriate 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 goals of St. Peter Network.

The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of everyone who uses the St. Peter Network. These rules and policies are provided here so that you are aware of your responsibilities. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a St. Peter Network user violates any of these provisions, they will be subject to the disciplinary steps as stated in this policy.

Terms and Conditions:

- i. Files and electronic mail (e-mail) are not guaranteed to be private. The network administrator may review or direct the review of files, e-mails and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that all users are using the system appropriately and according to this policy. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the legal authorities.
- ii. The following are prohibited outside the direction of St. Peter Lutheran Church:
 1. Use for commercial activities
 2. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying
- iii. The following are prohibited. The use of any of these may result in the disciplinary steps listed below under the Disciplinary Steps section:
 1. Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
 2. Using obscene language;
 3. Harassing, insulting or attacking others;
 4. Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks;

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- iv. Transmission of any material in violation of any US or State regulation. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
2. Using someone else's password without their permission;
3. Trespassing in someone else's folders, work or files;
4. Intentionally wasting computer or network resources;
5. Any activity in violation of any US or State regulation or any St. Peter Lutheran Church or School policy;
6. Impersonation of anyone else
7. Intentionally spreading a computer virus
8. Revealing other passwords without their consent
9. Attempting to acquire anyone else's password regardless of whether the password is for the St. Peter Network or the Internet;
10. Any action contrary to the Word of God

St. Peter Network makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. St. Peter Network will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The Internet is unregulated and much of the information found on the Internet has not been verified for accuracy. The St. Peter Network specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through it's services

PRIVILEGES

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The network administrator will deem what is inappropriate use. That decision may be deferred to the Chairman of the Congregation, whose decision is final.

NETWORK ETTIQUETTE

You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, (but are not limited to) the following:

- Exemplary behavior is expected on 'virtual' field trips. Treat people you meet on the Internet as if they were honored guests at your school
- Be polite
- Use appropriate language
- Do not reveal your last name, personal address, phone number, or those of students, friends or family without their permission and the permission of the network administrator.
- Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users
- Do not quote someone else without their consent
- Notify the network administrator when you feel you have found a security problem with the St. Peter Network or the Internet. Do not tell others.

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The following forms for all St. Peter students: Student Guidelines for Internet Use and Parent permission form, must be signed yearly.

Student Guidelines for Internet Use

Access to the Internet is offered to help students learn. With the help of teachers, the Internet can be used for researching, studying, and communicating. But the Internet also includes some information that is not appropriate for students and the the school environment. Therefore, students must agree to behave properly when using this powerful learning tool. The following rules should help a student understand what type of behavior is expected of Internet users.

- Students must be kind and polite when using the Internet
- Students must use Internet equipment only for school related activities
- Students may use the Internet only when they have permission from a teacher
- Students should not damage or mistreat computer equipment under any circumstances. This includes trying to "fix" plugs, cables, or other parts of the equipment, leave that to your teacher.
- Students should not access files that do not belong to them
- Students should not copy, download, or install any software or programs to or from school computers
- Students must not write, send, download or display obscene, threatening, harassing, or otherwise harmful messages or pictures
- Students must not share their personal address, phone number, or any other contact information over the Internet. They must not share information about other people either, including friends, fellow students, or teachers
- Students should be aware that e-mail and Internet use can and will be monitored and therefore is not private.
- Students must obey all rules that normally govern their behavior at school when using the Internet.

Student: "I have read these Student Guidelines for Acceptable Internet Use and agree to use the Internet and all associated equipment and information in a way that is consistent with these guidelines. I understand that failure to do so will result in the loss of my Internet privileges and other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by school officials.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: ___/___/___

Parent/Guardian Internet Permission Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to offer students at St. Peter Lutheran School access to the Internet. The Internet is a global computer network that is used by educators, students, government, business and a host of other organizations and individuals to communicate electronically. As a learning resource, the Internet is similar to books, magazines, video, CD-ROM, and other information sources, except that it quite literally enables students to explore countless numbers of computers, networks, libraries, and databases from throughout the world. Use of the Internet for educational purposes will assist students in identifying resources, gathering information, and developing the technical skills they will need for life and work in the twenty-first century.

It must be clear, however, that although your child's use of the Internet will be supervised, we cannot guarantee that a student will not be able to access information that you might consider to be objectionable. Therefore, it is imperative that both students and their parents be aware of each individual student's responsibility for ethical and appropriate Internet use. Just as students are expected to behave properly in the classroom and school, they will also be required to behave responsibly while using school computers and networks. Technical resources are provided to help students meet their information needs within the context of teacher-planned assignments and school-sponsored activities. Access to these resources, however, is a privilege, not a right. It is permitted only on the condition that a student agrees to act in a responsible manner. School staff reserves the right to suspend or terminate the use of the Internet by any student who violates these policies. Similarly, Internet use is subject to all policies and regulations that govern student behavior in other school activities.

Please review the attached "*Student Guidelines for Acceptable Internet Use*" agreement that your child will be required to read and sign before being granted Internet access. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss your family's values with your child and how they, too, should affect Internet use. Please feel free to contact Mr. Bremer at 517-224-3113 if you have any questions about Internet use or Internet policies at St. Peter Lutheran School. You are not required to grant permission for your child to access the Internet, but we firmly believe that Internet use in an approved educational setting, with specific educational objectives, and under appropriate supervision will prove to be a positive learning experience for your child.

Parent/Guardian: "I have read this letter and the Student Guidelines for Internet Use, and give my permission for my son/daughter to use the Internet at St. Peter Lutheran School."

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: ___/___/___