

## **ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

**Scope:** This policy applies to the use of Islesboro Central School computers for Internet access by students.

**Mission Statement:**

Islesboro Central School's Internet connection is intended to enhance the learning and teaching activities of the school and to support its philosophy and goals.

**Internet Resources:**

The Internet is a global network of networks connecting hundreds of thousands of computers around the world. Students, teachers, and staff will have access to the Internet via the broadband service provided by the Maine Schools and Libraries Network. Internet filtering per the Children Internet Protection Act (a federal law) is provided through MSLN for computers connected to the school network. School computers connected to the Internet outside of the school network are not filtered.

**Expected Behavior:**

You are expected to use your Internet access to pursue intellectual activities, seek resources and access libraries. We want you to explore this exciting global resource and discover what is available on the Net. We want you to share what you have learned with your friends, parents and teachers.

When you are using the Internet, and communicating with others in other locations, keep the following in mind:

1. You cannot see them
2. You cannot tell how old they are or even what sex they are
3. They can tell you anything, and you cannot always be sure that what they are telling you is true
4. Absolute privacy cannot be guaranteed in a network environment

So, you need to think carefully about what you say and how you say it.

For your own safety and for the safety of others, remember to use caution when you are communicating with people in the outside world. Do not give out your home number or your address to anyone. If you are having a problem in your communications with others, or feel uncomfortable with the information someone is giving you, tell a teacher or administrator immediately.

By the same token, you may not harass others. You may feel that you have the right of freedom of expression, but others have the right to be free from harassment.

## **Inappropriate Information:**

The Internet is an exciting educational tool that will allow Islesboro Central School students and teachers to become part of a global learning community. At the same time, we acknowledge the fact that inappropriate information exists on the Internet. The school will make every effort to make sure students are not accessing inappropriate materials. Such as the filtering mentioned above. However, we cannot weed out all of the materials that are unacceptable for students. It should be clearly understood by all students that access to such material, in any form, is strictly forbidden. It is the user's responsibility not to access such material.

Student access to the Internet will be monitored as any other classroom activity. The school cannot prevent the possibility, however, that some users may access material that is not consistent with the educational mission, goals, and policies of the school. Due to ease of access, every student and their parent will be asked to read and sign the Islesboro Central School Acceptable Use policy. Failure to do so by either student or parent will mean that student will not be able to access the Internet with school equipment. Students are not to bring their own personal computers to school.

Islesboro Central School's Internet access is designed to achieve and support instructional goals and information that does not support classroom learning, should be avoided. Students may not access live chat, social networking sites, or play games on the computer or on the Internet. Students may not use school computers for personal email unless instructed to do so by a teacher for a class assignment. In addition, the district will not be responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through this Internet connection.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL INTERNET AND NETWORK USERS**

Do not use school computers for personal email, to download music or video files or to access sites that are not directly related to a classroom assignment or research.

Do not install programs on school computers either from disk, CD or the Internet. This includes access to sites such as Skype, and Spotify. It is illegal to copy any software that is copyrighted.

Do not share your login password - your password makes your personal files accessible - protect it.

Use appropriate language. Profanity or obscenity will not be tolerated on the network.

Adhere to the rules of copyright. All associated with the Islesboro Central School must respect all copyright issues. You may not plagiarize or sell what you find.

Avoid plagiarism. The dictionary defines plagiarism as "taking ideas or writings from another person and offering them as your own". The student who leads readers to believe that what they are reading is the student's original work when it is not is guilty of plagiarism. Credit should always be given to the person who created the article or the idea.

Use the Internet to access information that is related to an educational assignment or activity. It is inappropriate to use school computers to access information that encourages or advocates illegal behavior, violence, or that is pornographic or obscene.

Do not use the school's computers to make purchases or incur other financial obligations. The Islesboro School Department will not be responsible for financial obligations incurred by students using the school's equipment for Internet access.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS**

#### **Consequences of violations include but are not limited to:**

1. Suspension or loss of Internet access
2. Suspension of computer access
3. Loss of computer privileges
4. Detention
5. School suspension or expulsion
6. Legal action and prosecution by the authorities

#### **Remedies and Resources:**

If you are accused of any of the violations, disciplinary procedures will be the same as they are in any other case of student misconduct.

Islesboro Central School has the right to restrict or to terminate Internet/Network access or computer privileges at any time for any reason. The school further has the right to monitor computer activity in any form that it sees fit to maintain the integrity of the school's expanding computer resources.

This policy applies to all users of the Islesboro Central School facilities, equipment, and software and includes but is not limited to regular students, adult education students, teachers, administrators, and any other permittees.

September 12, 2014