

PARENT PERMISSION LETTER FOR INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY & ELECTRONIC MAIL

We are pleased to offer students of Luverne Public Schools access to the district computer networks for electronic mail and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission and must indicate permission on the back to school registration paperwork.

Access to e-mail and the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Families should be warned that some materials accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, the Luverne Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

District Internet and E-Mail Rules

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

The network is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Parent permission is required. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access entails responsibility. Unethical and unacceptable behavior is just cause for taking disciplinary action, revoking information network access privileges, and/or initiating legal action for any activity through which an individual participates. Individual users of the district computer networks are responsible for their behavior and communications over those networks. It is presumed that users will comply with district standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers of younger students will guide them toward appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio, and other potentially offensive media.

As outlined in Board policy and procedures on student rights and responsibilities, copies of which are available in school offices, the following are not permitted:

1. Sending, receiving or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
2. Using obscene language;
3. Harassing, insulting or attacking others;
4. Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks;
5. Violating copyright laws;
6. Using others' passwords;
7. Trespassing in other's folders, work or files;
8. Intentionally wasting limited resources;
9. Employing the network for commercial purposes;
10. Stealing data, equipment or intellectual property;
11. Invading the privacy of individuals;
12. Posting anonymous messages; and,
13. Violating any policy of the Luverne Public Schools.

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Parents can formally give permission by checking the Acceptable Use Policy question on the registration and permission page.