



This agreement is between _____, a Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools student, his or her parents or guardians, and the GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (the District). The purpose of this agreement is to define the acceptable use of district- and student-owned technologies. All District-owned technologies are provided for educational purposes only, whether used on or off campus.

The Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools is committed to the belief that technology skills are a critical component of a *21st Century Education*, and is also vital to all areas of the *Gahanna-Jefferson Graduate Profile*. We are, therefore, pleased to be able to offer our students access to a wide and expanding range of technologies to support student learning and growth through local and global communication, collaboration, research opportunities, and resource sharing.

Technology, like all extremely powerful tools, can be intentionally or unintentionally misused. One of the *Graduate Profile* goals is to use technology *responsibly and honestly*, and this document is a tool to help outline the proper and ethical use of the vast range of district and personal technologies available to our students. Most often this focus is on Internet and district computer network use, but we touch upon other technologies as well. It is impossible to specify every possible use or misuse of technology, so while these outlines establish a framework of understanding students are encouraged to seek the advice of district staff with any questions about proper and improper technology use. *Due to the rapidly changing technology environment within Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools, the district reserves the right, at our sole discretion, to change, modify or otherwise alter these terms and conditions at any time. Such modifications shall become effective immediately upon the posting thereof in the Technology area of the district's public website, available at (<http://www.gahannaschools.org/District/DistrictTechnology.aspx>). Please visit this area on a regular basis to keep yourself apprised of any changes.*

Internet access provides our students with the ability to explore research materials and interact with individuals and groups worldwide. This *21st Century Skill* is a requirement for effective participation in an increasingly global environment and in local employment opportunities. However, not all Internet resources have educational value, and some may be inappropriate. While a best effort attempt is made to use Internet filtering to help students avoid resource-wasting and inappropriate sites, students are reminded that all district equipment is provided for educational purposes only. In situations where resource-wasting or inappropriate material is encountered, the user is "one click away" from removing that material from their screen and it is the user's responsibility to do so.

Also, it is important to remember that the Internet and many other current and developing technologies are intended for collaboration and sharing, and as a result it is best to consider *everything* done with these technologies as public. Student Internet activity in particular may be tracked by outside parties, so it is critical that each student protects his or her network and other account information and passwords as they will be held responsible for activity through their personal and unique account. Students should never share this information with others, nor should they use the login credentials of others. Students are expected not only to avoid illegal use of district and personally owned technologies, but to in all cases use these tools intelligently and ethically, and not to the detriment of themselves, the district, or others. Not only is this a critical component of *21st Century Citizenship*, it is also important to remember that parents and guardians are legally responsible for their student's activity so it is beneficial to stress these points and your expectations with your student.

District technologies are provided, and student technologies may be allowed, solely for the support of District academic programs and student learning. Examples of acceptable technology use include:

1. Appropriate collaboration and exchange of information for research and other project purposes;
2. Developing a familiarity with the technology for educational and employment purposes;
3. Expanding the opportunities for relevant technology use to produce reports, multimedia, and other assigned projects;
4. Developing *Graduate Profile* goals of becoming a *Responsible Community Member*, *Comprehensive Problem Solver*, *Proficient Technology User*, *Collaborative Team Member*, and an *Effective Communicator*.

In exchange for the use of available technology resources, the undersigned student and parent/guardian understand and agree to the following terms and conditions.

- A. The use of technology, whether district-provided or student-owned, is a privilege which may be revoked by the District at any time and for any reason. Reasons for revoking privileges include, but are not limited to:
- Improper use of the technology,
 - Failure to properly protect and secure the technology,
 - Altering or modifying system software and/or hardware,
 - Intentionally or unintentionally adding viruses, spyware, and other harmful programs to District systems,
 - Placing unauthorized information or comments on District-owned or publicly accessible servers,
 - Using the technology to cause embarrassment or harm to other individuals or groups.

The District reserves the right to remove files, limit or deny technology access, and refer offending students for other disciplinary actions consistent with the Student Handbook.

- B. Students will not use their District-approved computer access to obtain, view, download, or otherwise gain access to materials deemed unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive, hateful, or otherwise objectionable.
- C. The District retains ownership of all District-provided technologies and any contents thereof. We reserve the right to remove any material which the District, at its sole discretion, believes to be questionable and/or is having a negative impact on District technology systems. Students are responsible for the protection of their own important files through regular backups of those files to USB or other available storage media. The District assumes no responsibility for lost files.
- D. Students are expected to be *Responsible Community Members* and to *use technology responsibly, honestly, and ethically*. Students **shall**:
- Polite, courteous, and respectful in your messages to others.
 - The use of language appropriate to school situations in all communications made through the Board's computers, networks, and other technologies.
 - Diligently delete their unneeded files regularly to minimize District storage needs.
 - Protect their critical files by making regular backups of their important work.
 - Comply with the Student Handbook.

Students **shall not**:

- Use obscene, profane, vulgar, sexually explicit, defamatory, or abusive language in your messages.
 - Reveal names, addresses, phone numbers, or passwords of yourself or other students, family members, teachers, administrators, or other staff members via the Internet or any other medium.
 - Transmit pictures or other information that could be used to establish your identity or the identity of others without prior approval of a teacher.
 - Transmit pictures or other information about fellow students, teachers, or groups.
 - Agree to meet any person encountered online without prior parent approval.
- E. All information services and features contained on District network resources and other technologies are intended for the private use of registered staff and students *only* and any use of these resources for commercial for-profit or other unauthorized purposes (i.e. advertisements, political lobbying), in any form, is expressly forbidden.
- F. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure reliable operation of, and access to, all district technologies, the District cannot guarantee uninterrupted access or use of the network or other technologies, nor can it be held responsible for loss of data due to electrical or mechanical failure or human error.
- G. District network resources are intended for exclusive use by registered users. The student is responsible for the use of his/her user ID password and/or access privilege. Any problems which arise from the use of a student's user ID are the responsibility of the ID holder. Use of a user ID by someone other than to whom it was originally registered is forbidden and may be grounds for loss of access privileges. Students may not allow other users to utilize their personal and unique login IDs and passwords.
- H. Any misuse of technology access will result in suspension of privileges and/or other disciplinary action determined by the District consistent with the Student Handbook. Misuse shall include, but not be limited to:
- Intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users;
 - Misrepresenting other users on the Network or through other technology-based tools;
 - Using any technology in any way that causes concern, worry, or embarrassment to any student, District staff member, or other;
 - Disrupting the operation of the Network or other technology-based tools through abuse.;
 - Malicious use of District-provided or student-owned devices through hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statements, or discriminatory remarks;
 - Interfering with others' use of District technologies;
 - Extensive use for non curriculum-related communication;

- h. Illegal or unethical modification of systems including, but not limited to:
 - i. The illegal installation of copyrighted or unauthorized software;
 - ii. Unauthorized downloading, copying, deleting, altering or other misuse of licensed copyrighted software;
 - iii. Using the Internet to engage in "hacking" or other unlawful activities;
 - iv. Accessing, or attempting to access, the personal files of other users or the District on the District's network or other technologies;
 - v. The intentional or unintentional degradation or disruption of system performance;
 - vi. Attempts to bypass internet filtering controls;
 - vii. Transmission of any material in violation of any State or Federal law or regulation, or Board policy;
 - viii. Malicious use of the Board's computers/network to develop programs that harass other users, infiltrate or attempt to infiltrate any computer or computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer, or any other illegal or unethical activity;
 - ix. Any violation of the Student Handbook.
- I. The District reserves the right to log Internet use and monitor electronic mail, file server space utilization, and other technology system processes and services. Much of this monitoring is required to ensure the efficient and effective operation of District technologies and to proactively address technological and other issues and can occur without the prior notification of students or staff. AUP infractions and legal violations found during any routine or targeted monitoring may be actionable under the policies and guidelines of the District and State and Federal laws.
- J. The student may only log on and use the network under the supervision of a staff member and only with his/her assigned unique user ID. Students must protect their personal login credentials, as they will be held responsible for activities performed using these credentials.
- K. Downloading of unauthorized programs or information onto the Board's hard drives is prohibited; all downloads must have prior approval and be saved to thumb drives, CD ROMs or other authorized external devices. If a student transfers files from online information services, the student must scan all files with a virus-detection program before opening the file for use. If a student transfers a file or software program that infects the Network with a virus and causes damage, the student may be liable for any and all repair costs to restore the network and attached devices to full functionality.
- L. The District reserves the right to disable or remove a network user account to prevent unauthorized activity, and will not be held responsible for any file loss or inconvenience should this account activity become necessary.
- M. Any damage done to the District's network or equipment by a user not following the guidelines described in this document is the sole responsibility of that user.
- N. Students are prohibited from accessing or participating in online "chat rooms" and must secure prior approval from a teacher or building administrator before joining and/or participating in online services such as; Listservs, Blogs, Podcasts, "electronic communities", or other forms of direct electronic communication.
- O. Students will at no time post personal information about, or photographs of, themselves or others on the Web or using any other technology.
- P. Privacy in communication of the Internet and the Network is not guaranteed. The Board reserves the right to monitor, review, and inspect any directories, files, and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board's computers/network. Messages relating to or in support of illegal or unethical activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- Q. Use of the Internet and any information procured from the Internet is at the student's own risk. The Board is not responsible for any damage a user suffers, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions. The Board is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. Information (including text, graphics, audio, video, etc.) from Internet sources used in student papers, reports, and projects should be cited the same as references to printed materials.
- R. The Board has implemented technology protection measures that protect against Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, and/or inappropriate for a school setting and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication, and/or services on the Internet which the Board of Education has not authorized for educational purposes and/ or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable, or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet.
- S. Students accessing the Internet through any device, whether District-provided or student-owned, assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.
- T. As we move toward 24/7 education, students are increasingly likely to be loaned district equipment in support of the District's educational goals. All of the components of this Acceptable Use Policy shall apply when using any District-provided technology, whether on or off campus. Students who are loaned any District technology also agree to be bound by the conditions specified on the District's *IT Equipment Loan Policy*.

In consideration for the privileges of using the District's technologies, and in consideration for having access to the information contained on the network and Internet resources, the undersigned student and parent/guardian hereby release the District, and their operators and administration from any and all claims of any claims arising from my/my child's use, or inability to use District network resources.

The undersigned student agrees to abide by such rules and regulations of system usage as may be amended by the District at any time. Students and parents can visit <http://www.gahannaschools.org/District/DistrictTechnology.aspx> to view the most current version of this agreement.

The undersigned student and parent understand that any failure to abide by this agreement may result in cancellation of the privilege to use the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools' computer network and/or other technologies, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook and/or civil or criminal liability.

As the parent/ guardian of this student, I have read the Student Technology User Agreement, and have discussed them with my child. I understand that student access to technology, including the district network and the Internet is, designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet. I will not hold the Board (or any of its employees, administrators, or officers) responsible for material my child may acquire or come in contact with while on the Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet --i.e., setting and conveying standards for my daughter/ son to follow when selecting, sharing, and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations.

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Printed Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Student Printed Name	Student Signature	Date