

NOTICE TO PARENTS

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC MAIL ACCESS

We are pleased to offer students of the Estill County School System access to the district computer network for electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. To gain access to e-mail and the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission and must sign and return the attached form to the school. Students age 18 and over may sign their own names.

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 material 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, Estill County Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to allow access.

Rules and Regulations

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in the classroom. Communications on the network are often public in nature. 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 responsible manner. Parent permission is required and access is a privilege - **not** a right.

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 using 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. Network Proxy logs and e-mail accounts may be reviewed at any time. 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 hours, 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 books, periodicals, television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

The following are not permitted:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages **or pictures (this includes any document containing** pornographic, obscene, **or** sexually explicit material).
- Using obscene, abusive or sexually explicit language
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Damaging computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another's password (The individual is responsible for the security of his/her own password).
- Trespassing in another's folder, work or files (**DO NOT** access, copy **or transmit** another's messages **without permission.**)
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Using the network for private business or personal gain (commercial purposes).

Violations may result in loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

As a user of the Estill County Schools computer network, I hereby agree to comply with the school district internet and electronic mail rules and to communicate over the network in a responsible manner while abiding by all relevant laws and restrictions.

Student Signature _____ *Date* _____

As the parent or legal guardian of the student signing above, I grant permission for my child to access networked computer services such as electronic mail and the Internet.
I understand that some materials on the Internet may be objectionable, however, I accept responsibility for guidance of Internet use by setting and conveying standards for my child to follow when selecting, sharing, researching or exploring electronic information and media.

Parent Signature _____ *Date* _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____