

COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is committed to optimizing student learning and teaching. The District considers student access to a computer network, including the Internet, to be a powerful and valuable educational and research tool, and encourages the use of technology integration for the purpose of advancing and promoting learning and teaching.

The computer network can provide a forum for learning various applications and through a rich array of resources can significantly enhance educational experiences and provide statewide, national and global communication opportunities for staff and students.

All users of the district's computer network and the Internet must understand that use is a privilege, not a right, and that use entails responsibility.

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District shall establish regulations governing the use and security of the district's computer network. All users of the district's computer network and equipment shall comply with this policy and those regulations. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action as well as suspension and/or revocation of computer access privileges.

The integration of technology continues to transform the education landscape into an active, engaging, opportunistic, and customized digital age environment. The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is committed to creating a cutting edge Digital Age learning environment.

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1st Reading: 04/06/2011

COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE REGULATION

Internet access is available to all students and teachers in the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. We believe that the Internet offers vast, diverse and unique opportunities for both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resources, sharing, innovation and communication.

With access to computers and the Internet also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. On a global network, it is impossible to fully control all materials. Users may discover controversial information in written and graphic form. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this global network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School district.

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, the District employs technology protection measures that are designed to block access to visual depictions of pornography, obscenity and other material deemed illegal, inappropriate or harmful to minors. Web site traffic passes through customized filters on all Internet-enabled computers.

Terms and Conditions for Network and Internet Use

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users who must adhere to strict guidelines as noted below. These guidelines are provided here so that users are aware of their responsibilities for use of the network and Internet. In general, this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Bellmore-Merrick user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. There may be legal as well as school consequences for violators.

1. Acceptable Use – The original purpose of the Internet was to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. The use of any account, therefore, must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. Transmission of any material in violation of any United States or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activity is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.
2. Privileges – The use of Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges and disciplinary consequences. Users have the full responsibility for the use of an account, and, under no conditions, should users share their accounts or passwords with any other person. The district will conduct period reviews of all accounts to determine adherence to the goals of research and education. The district will also monitor all accounts for the purpose of ensuring network security and maintenance. No personal software may be loaded onto the district's computers and/or network without a virus check and permission of designated district personnel. Only networked software may be installed.

3. Netiquette (Network Etiquette) – Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following guidelines which will be posted in all classrooms with computers:
 - a. Use appropriate language. Be polite. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
 - b. Do not reveal the Personally Identifiable Information including personal address, phone number, credit card numbers, etc. of students or colleagues.
 - c. Note that e-mail is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - d. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.

4. Responsibility – The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained is at the user’s risk. The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the network. It is the responsibility of each user to verify the integrity and authenticity of the information that is used.

5. Commercial Use – Commercial services are available on the Internet. Their use through the Bellmore-Merrick network is discouraged. If users choose to access these services, they are liable for any additional costs/risks that may be incurred.

6. Security Issues – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If users identify a security problem on the Internet, they must notify a teacher or an administrator. Attempts to login to the Internet or network as a “system administrator” will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to Internet.

7. Vandalism – Vandalism will result in cancellation of system use privileges, and/or school disciplinary action as well as possible prosecution. Vandalism is defined as a malicious attempt to harm or destroy district equipment or materials, and/or data of another user of the district’s system or any of the agencies or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creating of computer viruses. Tampering with or misuse of the computer system or taking any other action inconsistent with this protocol and regulation will be viewed as a security violation. Violators will be responsible for any financial damages caused by their actions.

8. Harassment – Students are prohibited from posting on websites texts or images that defame, harass, threaten or falsely accuse another individual of wrongdoing or illegal behavior. This includes, but is not limited to, social networking sites such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.

9. Virtual Private Networks – Students and staff are prohibited from using virtual private networks, proxies, and/or other methods used to circumvent the district network security measures.