

Swedesboro-Woolwich School District
USE OF COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET
PERMISSION FORM

Swedesboro-Woolwich School District is pleased to offer students access to a computer network for the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the form below. Should a parent prefer that a student not have Internet access, use of the computers is still possible for more traditional purposes such as word processing and access to other educational software that is installed on the computer.

What is possible?

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums, and other repositories of information. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. While the purposes of the school are to use Internet resources for constructive educational goals, students may find ways to access other materials. Swedesboro-Woolwich School District employs the use of state of the art Anti-Virus protection and Internet and Email filtering devices in order to protect the network and its users from inappropriate material. However, since no system is 100% effective, Swedesboro-Woolwich School District claims no responsibility for any exposure to inappropriate material due to system malfunction or intentional or unintentional user manipulation. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the 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. Therefore, we support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access. Currently, Swedesboro-Woolwich School District prohibits and prevents the use of Instant Messaging as well as access to other youth oriented social networking sites such as myspace.com. Students are also not permitted access to internet email clients such as yahoo, Google or hotmail.

What is expected?

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom or on a school playground. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with district standards and the specific rules set forth below. The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the school's computer resources. The students are advised never to access, keep, or send anything that they would not want their parents or teachers to see.

What are the rules?

Privacy -- Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review communications to maintain system integrity will insure that students are using the system responsibly.

Storage capacity -- Users are expected to remain within allocated disk space and delete material which take up excessive storage space.

Illegal copying -- Students should never download or install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless they have written permission from the Network Administrator. Nor should students copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.

Inappropriate materials or language -- No profane, abusive or impolite language should be used to communicate nor should materials be accessed which are not in line with the rules of school behavior. A good rule to follow is never view, send, or access materials which you would not want your teachers and parents to see. Should students encounter such material by accident, they should report it their teacher immediately.

Succinct Advice

These are guidelines to follow to prevent the loss of network privileges at School.

1. Do not use a computer to harm other people or their work.
2. Do not damage the computer or the network in any way.
3. Do not interfere with the operation of the network by installing illegal software, shareware, or freeware.
4. Do not violate copyright laws.
5. Do not view, send, or display offensive messages or pictures.
6. Do not share your password with another person.
7. Do not waste limited resources such as disk space or printing capacity.
8. Do not trespass in another's folder, work, or files.
9. DO notify an adult immediately, if by accident, you encounter materials which violate the rules of appropriate use.
10. BE PREPARED to be held accountable for your actions and for the loss of privileges if the Rules of Appropriate Use are violated.