

Dear Parent/Guardian,

What is education's role for student learning in the 21st century when it comes to on-line resources like email, social networking, chat, and web sites? Peninsula School District believes this is an important issue for our schools, teachers, and parents to grapple with as we consider the relative merits of email, social networking, chatting, and even YouTube. Within these resources are some obvious negative uses as well as obvious positive uses, and a whole lot of gray area:

Benefits of these resources:

- They are important tools that students use much like we use the phone.
- Provides students with opportunities to **learn** with technology the way they **live** with technology.
- Gives students opportunities to develop their own time management skills and choices.
- Provides opportunities to practice safe and responsible use of information and technology.
- Integrates powerful collaboration/communication tools that students already use into education.
- Provides vast amounts of knowledge and research to assist in student learning.

Concerns with these resources:

- May pose potential for Cyber-bullying.
- May allow students access to inappropriate content.
- May lead to possible invasion of privacy.
- May reduce productivity due to non-educational use of resources.

Within Peninsula School District's responsibility to manage, monitor and filter network content, we are constantly attempting to strike a balance between student safety, productivity and educational benefit. We do not take this responsibility lightly. Pornographic, gambling, gaming and other obviously inappropriate sites are easy to identify and block using our filtering software in accordance with board policy and federal law.

However, email and other on-line resources that can improve communication, collaboration and educational value have become essential tools in the lives of our students. These resources and communication tools have been shown to be nearly as important to this generation as face-to-face time with their friends. Due to the nature of these on-line resources, it is not easy to identify or technically feasible to block 100% of the inappropriate content.

Can these resources not also work for education where students use them to learn, communicate and collaborate about school work? Can these tools work with an informed and responsible staff; a staff dedicated to the integration of new technologies into instruction; a staff willing to monitor and hold students accountable for their proper use of technology and these resources?

We believe so. We all want to provide staff and students with safe and valuable on-line learning tools that will enhance productivity and learning. These are the same tools that will define their learning and working environment of the future. To that end, we will continually monitor and evaluate the potential for enhanced learning versus the potential for distraction, but blocking or limiting access is not always the answer, supervision, good teaching and learning is.

Our commitment is to provide a safe on-line experience at school for your child by providing a combination of filtering, supervision, and instruction to empower student learning while teaching the responsible use of these resources. Our goal is to use these resources as important new learning tools rather than an alternative to learning.

If you would like further information on these topics please visit <http://sl.psd401.net/digitalcitizenship>.

Please sign and return if you DO NOT want your child on the Internet while at school.

If you wish to have your child's Internet rights terminated while at school then please fill out the information below and return this portion to your child's school office. Please understand that this is an all or nothing decision and that loss of Internet privileges will include ALL online resources. Policy details can be found in the parent/student handbook on our website at <http://www.psd401.net>.

Internet Use Opt Out - My student is prohibited from computer and network use that allows access to the Internet.

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____ Signature: _____

Student Name: _____ Date: _____