



NOVATO CHARTER SCHOOL
940 "C" Street, Novato, CA 94949
Ph: 415-883-4254 | Fax: 415-883-1859
www.novatocharterschool.org

Board Policy adopted on:

Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement

I. INTRODUCTION

The Internet is a place for the exchange of ideas and information. Accordingly, the Internet is an excellent educational tool that allows students to access a wide variety of information to supplement academic study and research. The Novato Charter School ("Charter School") provides students with Internet access and email accounts to further their education and research. However, the access the Internet provides to computers and people across the world also provides access to materials that do not have educational value in a school setting. As such, students may encounter information and ideas they may consider obscene, controversial, abusive, or otherwise offensive. Despite these risks, the Charter School believes that the value of the educational information available on the Internet far outweighs the risk that students may access information that is not consistent with educational goals and purposes.

The Charter School has promulgated and adopted the Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement ("Policy") to ensure that student access to and use of the Internet is consistent with the educational goals and purposes of the Charter School. This Policy sets forth student responsibilities and duties when accessing and using the Internet through Charter School equipment and resource network and when using email accounts maintained by the Charter School. The Charter School has deemed certain uses of the Internet inappropriate for an educational setting and therefore not appropriate for use with Charter School equipment and resource networks. The Charter School stresses that an inappropriate use does not always mean that the use is in itself "bad" or illegal, but only that the use does not further the educational goals and purposes of the Charter School.

In addition to the below identified policies, the Charter School will use technology protection measures that protect against Internet access (by both minors and adults) to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or with respect to use by minors, harmful to minors. These measures may include, but are not limited to, installing a blocking system to block specific internet sites, setting Internet browsers to block access to adult sites, using a filtering system that will filter all Internet traffic and report potential instances of misuse and using a spam filter.

An authorized administrator, supervisor or other employee may disable the technology protection measure concerned only during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Students are reminded that their use of Charter School equipment and resource networks reflect upon the Charter School, and Students should guide their activities accordingly.

II. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Use Limited to an Educational Purpose

The Student acknowledges that access to the Internet via Charter School equipment and resource networks is intended to serve and pursue educational goals and purposes. Student use of the Internet is therefore limited to only those activities that further or enhance the delivery of education. The Student recognizes that he or she has a duty to use Charter School equipment and resource networks only in a manner specified in the Policy.

a. Educational Purpose

“Educational purpose” means classroom activities, research in academic subjects, career or professional development activities, research in matters of civic importance or that further citizenship in a democratic society, Charter School approved personal research activities, or other purposes as defined by the Charter School from time to time.

b. Inappropriate Use

An “inappropriate use” is one that is inconsistent with an educational purpose or that is in clear violation of Charter School policy.

2. Plagiarism

Researching information and incorporating that information into a student’s work is an acceptable educational use, but students have an obligation to credit and acknowledge the source of information. Accordingly, the Student acknowledges that plagiarism is inappropriate and unacceptable. Plagiarism means the copying of a phrase, a sentence, or a longer passage from a source written by someone else and claiming the written work as the student’s original work. Student agrees that when quoting from information obtained on the Internet, he or she will acknowledge the source through quotation or any academically accepted form of notation.

3. Copyright

Student agrees that he or she will not use Charter School equipment or resource networks to download or print text, music, or pictures for the purpose of selling or giving the files to others unless specifically authorized by the Charter School and the owner of the copyrighted material.

4. Communication

Student agrees that he or she will use Charter School equipment or resource networks or Charter School email accounts in the following manner:

- a. Student will not post on newsgroups or other message posting systems any communication containing profanity, racially disparaging remarks, or lewd and/or obscene language.
- b. Student will not at any time use speech that is not appropriate for an educational setting. Examples of speech that is not appropriate for an educational setting includes, but is not limited to, inflammatory language, profanity, personal attacks, harassment, threats to do personal harm or other criminal activity, and language that is intended to be racially derogatory.

- c. Student will not make threats against others.
- d. Student will not reveal personal information about others.
- e. Student will not use email to send chain letters or “spam” email to a list of people or to an individual. Excessive email use may constitute grounds for suspecting misuse.
- f. Student will not place illegal information on the Internet, nor will Student use the Internet in any way that violates federal, state, or local law.
- g. All communications will be polite and respectful of others.
- h. Student will not give out to any other Internet user or post on the Internet his or her personal information, including name, address, telephone number, credit card information and social security numbers, unless expressly authorized by the Charter School in writing.
- i. Student will not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone he or she has “met” on the computer network or Internet without a parent’s written permission.
- j. Student will not use the School’s equipment in a manner that jeopardizes the security of access of the computer network or other networks on the internet.
- k. Student will not engage in cyberbullying or cyberthreats. Cyberbullying involves bullying conduct that is created or transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, smartphone, or pager, of a communication, including but not limited to, a message, text, sound, video or image.
- l. Cyber sexual bullying involves dissemination of, or the solicitation or incitement to disseminate, a photograph or other visual recording by a pupil to another pupil or to school personnel by means of an electronic act that has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more effects described in (1) – (4) above. A photograph or other visual recording shall include the depiction of a nude, semi-nude, or sexually explicit photograph or other visual recording of a minor where the minor is identifiable from the photograph, visual recording or other electronic act. EC 48900
- m. Student will not engage in social media bullying on any forum, including but not limited to, internet websites with free registration and ease of registration, internet websites offering peer-to-peer instant messaging (such as SnapChat, Tox, FireChat, Orbit, Bleep), internet websites offering comment forums (such as FaceBook, Twitter, Reddit) and internet websites offering image or video posting platforms (such as YouTube, Instagram, Twitch, Imgur).

In instances of misuse or suspected misuse, in addition to any disciplinary actions appropriate, the Student’s parent or guardian may be granted access to the Student’s email files.

5. **Illegal, Dangerous Activities and Hacking**

Student shall not use the Internet to perform any illegal act or to help others perform illegal acts. Illegal acts include, but are not limited to, any activities in violation of local, state, and federal law. Student shall not access information designed to further criminal or dangerous activities. Such information includes, but is not limited to, information that if acted upon could cause damage, present a danger, or cause disruption to the Charter School, other students, or the community.

Additionally, Student shall not damage, debilitate or disable computers, computer networks or systems through the intentional or overuse of electronic distribution or the spreading of computer viruses or other harmful programs. Student shall not engage in any unauthorized online access to other computers by means of hacking into other computers, download hacker tools such as port scanners and password crackers designed for use with Windows (or applicable operating systems), or use Internet Explorer (or other WWW browsing tools) to evade restrictions on what programs Student can run on the Charter School's computers.

6. Obscene Materials

Student acknowledges that obscene materials do not further an educational purpose. Accordingly, Student shall not use the Internet to access, upload, download, distribute, or transmit obscene materials or images. Obscene materials include, but are not limited to, materials that offend generally accepted social standards. This includes the access of or retrieval of any sexually explicit materials, and materials that are pornographic, abusive or threatening. Students are to exercise their best judgment when encountering sexually explicit or obscene materials. As a general rule, if the material could not be openly displayed in a classroom setting without violating generally accepted social standards, the material is obscene for purposes of this Policy and must not be accessed. Student further agrees that he or she will not access any Internet site which requires the Student to state that he or she is eighteen years of age or older as a condition of accessing the site.

7. Supervision and Student Privacy

Student acknowledges that computer equipment, Internet access networks, and email accounts are owned by the Charter School and provided to students for educational purposes. The Charter School will provide staff to monitor and supervise all Student access to computer equipment, Internet access networks, and email accounts. To facilitate monitoring of activities, computer screens will be positioned so that they are visible to the staff member supervising the students. The Charter School also reserves the right to access stored computer records to assure compliance with this Policy. Student is aware that communication over Charter School owned networks is not private and acknowledges that email and records of Internet activities will be accessed under, but not limited to, the following circumstances:

- a. Routine system maintenance.
- b. General inspection or monitoring, with or without notice to Student, if there is suspicion of inappropriate use.
- c. Specific review of individual files or monitoring of individual activity, with or without notice to Student, if there is suspicion that Student is engaging in inappropriate use.

8. Commercial Activities

Student agrees that Student will not use the Internet to buy or sell, or attempt to buy or sell, any service or product unless authorized by the Charter School in writing.

9. Information About Others

Student agrees that he or she will not make any statement or post any communication on the Internet about another person that he or she knows or suspects to be untrue.

10. **Violation of Policy**

The Student acknowledges that violation of this Policy can result in a loss of all Internet access and email privileges. If Student violates this Policy, or in any other way uses Charter School equipment in a manner that is not consistent with educational use, the Student will be promptly notified that he or she has violated the Policy. The Student will be given the opportunity to explain why the Charter School should deem the activity in question a use consistent with the educational purposes stated in this Policy. If the Charter School deems that the use is inconsistent with the educational purposes stated in this Policy, the Charter School may terminate the Student's Internet and email privileges. However, because one of the educational purposes in providing Internet access is to teach students to use the Internet appropriately, the Charter School reserves the right to fashion penalties to specific concerns or specific violations, and Student acknowledges that he or she may receive penalties less than full termination of Internet or email privileges. Such penalties may include, but are not limited to, restricted access to Internet or supervised access to Internet and email.

Student also acknowledges that the Charter School will contact the proper legal authorities if the Charter School concludes or suspects that the Student's Internet activity is a violation of any law or otherwise constitutes an illegal activity.

11. **Training**

Student acknowledges that he/she will be required to attend training on the requirements of this Internet use policy as a condition of using Charter School owned technology. This will include training about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking Web sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. Student must demonstrate an understanding of the policy prior to receiving an individual account on the Charter School's system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TERMS OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL'S INTERNET USE POLICY

I, _____, parent or guardian of _____ have read and understand the Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement and agree to the terms and conditions that are set out in the Policy.

Parent's Signature

I, _____, have read and understand the Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement and agree to the terms and conditions that are set out in the Policy.

Student's Signature