Sidney Independent School District
Acceptable Use Policy
For Electronic Communications System

Directions: Please read the following description and conditions of service, and sign the pages as needed, filling in all required fields. Then send the signed pages to your building principal or library media specialist.

APPLICATION FOR ACCOUNT AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF THE
SISD NETWORK AND THE INTERNET

INTRODUCTION:

Internet access is available to students, teachers, and the administration of Sidney ISD. We believe these services will offer vast, diverse and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal is to promote educational excellence in the Sidney Independent School District by facilitating resource sharing innovation and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Our students, teachers and administrators will have access to:

1. WWW (World Wide Web) - Graphical interface to other sites all over the world using Netscape or Internet Explorer. Through this platform, one may see and get resources from thousands of archives worldwide.
2. Discussion groups on a wide variety of topics ranging from ethnic cultures to the environment to music to politics.

Our teachers and administrators will also have access to electronic mail. Students will not have direct access to e-mail through this system for personal use and may not check e-mail accounts they may have outside of school upon these machines.

USER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Teachers and administrators will be assigned accounts on this system. Students will be users of the system. It is expected that anyone having an account with the Sidney ISD Network and all student users will accept and abide by the following policies:

1. Users must respect the privacy of others. Users shall not intentionally obtain copies of or modify files, passwords, or data that belong to anyone else. No one should represent themselves as someone else by using another account. No one should forward personal material without prior consent.
2. All users must respect the legal protection provided by copyright license to programs, books, articles and data.
3. Users must respect the integrity of computing systems, for example, no one should develop programs that harass other users, or attempt to infiltrate a computer or computing

system.
4. No advertising for profit, no lobbying, and no campaigns for political office are allowed through the Network.
5. Use of the Sidney ISD Network for games or for passing chain letters is not considered acceptable, as this places a heavy load on scarce resources.
6. Users must respect the rights of other individuals and not use language that is abusive, profane, or sexually offensive.
7. Electronic Mail is not guaranteed to be private. Messages dealing with illegal activities may be reported to the appropriate authority.
8. If a member feels there may be a security problem on the Network he/she must notify the system administrator and inform him/her of the problem.
9. Be careful to protect your password. Never give your password to anyone. Call the system administrator if you forget your password. Any abuse of your account by someone else is your responsibility. If you believe someone else may have your password, you should immediately change it and report the problem to the system administrator.
10. The use of chat rooms (or any simulations thereof) by anyone on the Sidney ISD network is prohibited.
11. All must abide by existing Federal and State laws in force regarding electronic communication. This includes accessing information without authorization, giving passwords out, or causing a system to malfunction. These laws can carry penalties of up to 20 years in prison.
12. Access to the Internet is considered a privilege. Anyone found using access in a way deemed inappropriate will be denied privileges.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

We are pleased to offer students of the Sidney Public Schools access to the district computer network and the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission and must sign and return the Acceptable Use Policy form to the school. Students 18 and over may sign their own forms.

Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while collaborating 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, the Sidney Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for access.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

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 considerate and responsible

manner. Access is a privilege - not a right. Access entails responsibility.

DISTRICT RULES:

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 agreement they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of individuals utilizing the network. Network storage areas may be treated like a school locker. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. 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.

As outlined in Board policy and procedures on student rights and responsibilities, copies of which are available in school offices, the following are not permitted:
- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another's password
- Trespassing in another's folders, work or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources
- Employing the network for commercial purposes

Violations may result in a loss of access as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Students will be held responsible for any physical damage caused to the machines or associated equipment.

PUBLICATIONS:

As a part of this computer network, Sidney ISD will publish school web pages. Classroom projects, organizations, UIL or sports events may be reported on within this framework. Photos or first names may be included of student involvement. Parents may choose not to have photos of their children or names published (contact school personnel to request exclusion).

------------------------sign and return to the office---

I agree to abide by the rules listed in this agreement.

Student _____   Date _____

Parent _____

Signatures must be on file in the office before students have access to computers or internet.