

HIGH POINT ACADEMY 2023/2024 INTERNET SAFETY POLICY / TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET AGREEMENT FORM

We are pleased to offer students of High Point Academy (HPA) access to our electronic resources. Our goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence in our system by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Electronic resources provide students with access to vast amounts of information and numerous opportunities for communication.

Our intent is to make internet access available to further educational goals and objectives. However, parents/guardians should be warned that if students disregard the guidelines of the school and/or system, they may find ways to access other materials via the internet, which may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. 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.

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, HPA supports and respects each family's right to decide whether to, or not to, approve independent internet access and communications. To gain access to the internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental/guardian permission and must sign the attached form.

Student Responsibilities

Electronic resources are provided for students to enhance the learning experience. Access to services is given to students who agree to act in a responsible manner. Student use must be consistent with the educational objectives of HPA.

Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer network 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 may apply.

Internet access is provided primarily for educational purposes under the direction of HPA staff. Non-educational use may be limited at any time by supervising teachers.

Network storage areas will be treated like school Lockers. Network and/or school administrators and teachers may review files, bookmarks, and communications under the same standards set for school lockers to ensure the integrity of the electronic media. Privacy is not guaranteed for files stored on school district servers nor will files be maintained indefinitely. Students should also be advised that they should have no expectation of privacy for any information created or communicated using HPA electronic resources.

School and Parent Responsibility

Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers will guide students toward appropriate materials. Outside of school and with independent access, parents/guardians bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, and other potentially offensive media.

HPA will ensure that procedures for access and standards of conduct regarding internet use are communicated to students. It is presumed that students given access will comply with HPA standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. The school cannot be responsible for ideas and concepts that a student may gain by his or her inappropriate use of the internet.

HPA does not warrant that the functions of the system will meet any specific requirements you may have, or that it will be error-free or un-interrupted; nor shall it be liable for any direct or indirect, incidental, or consequential damages (including, but not limited to, lost data, information, or profits) sustained or incurred in connection with the use, operation, or inability to use the system. High Point Academy utilizes Common Sense Education (<https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship>) to educate students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. Parents can also access these free resources at the above website.

Security

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you can identify a security problem on the network, quietly notify your teacher, the system administrator, or the principal. You are not permitted to use another individual's account, and you should never allow anyone else to access your account. If, at any time, you feel that your password may have been compromised, ask your teacher how you can change your password. The Safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications is a top priority for HPA. HPA utilizes multiple levels of internet filtering services/hardware to protect minors in this regard. These services/hardware include, but are not limited to, DNS routing/filtering, URL whitelisting/blacklisting, and Web History Reporting. These services and/or hardware, are designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors. Ultimately, you are responsible for all activity that occurs with your account. Attempts to login to the network as a system administrator or gain unauthorized access will result in the cancellation of your computer privileges, as well as any other applicable consequences outlined in the Student Handbook and/or Code of Conduct.

Printed Student Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Electronic Access and Internet Rules

The following uses of HPA's electronic resources are not permitted and may result in disciplinary action:

- open drinks and/or food in any computer area;
- running outside software (Software not installed/approved by the HPA Technology Department);
- downloading, storing, installing or modifying software on any computer;
- moving or disconnection of any computer or peripheral device or piece/part of any equipment;
- violating copyright laws;
- printing document(s) without absolute necessity;
- using electronic resources for non-instructional purposes;
- using obscene language;
- sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures;
- harassing, insulting, or attacking others;
- intentionally spreading viruses or malicious software;
- deletion, examination, copying, or modification of files and/or data belonging to other users without their prior consent;
- publishing personal information (name, address, photographs) without teacher/parent approval;
- accessing and using an email account at school without express permission by HPA Teachers/Admin;
- using personal electronic devices at school without appropriate permission;
- attempting to bypass network security to gain unauthorized access to information;
- intentionally wasting limited resources; or,
- any unauthorized, deliberate action which damages or disrupts a computing system (including the willful introduction of computer "viruses" or other disruptive/destructive programs), alters its normal performance, or causes it to malfunction.

Sanctions

The use of HPA electronic resources is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of privileges. Access entails responsibility. HPA administration and faculty will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the local school level in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When applicable, law enforcement agencies or legal action may be involved.

STUDENT:

I have read the High Point Academy Technology and Internet User Agreement, understand it, and agree to adhere to the principles and procedures listed within. I understand that until this agreement is signed and returned, I cannot access the HPA computer network. I also understand that additional rules and regulations may be added from time to time and that they become a part of this agreement. Should I break this agreement, I understand that I may lose all computer/internet privileges.

Printed Student Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT:

I understand that some objectionable materials may be accessed even with content filtering in place. I understand that privileges and families may be held liable for violations. I will accept responsibility for guidance of internet use by setting and conveying standards for my son/daughter to follow when exploring on-line information and media on an independent basis. High Point Academy cannot be responsible for ideas and concepts that my child may gain by his or her inappropriate use of the internet.

I also understand and accept the conditions stated and agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless, High Point Academy, High Point Academy Board of Directors, and/or their employees or agents from any and all claims and liability associated with or arising from the above student's independent use and/or access to the internet.

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____