

## STUDENT COMPUTER AND INTERNET USE RULES

All students are responsible for their actions and activities involving school unit computers, network and Internet services, and for their computer files, passwords and accounts. These rules provide general guidance concerning the use of the school unit's computers and examples of prohibited uses. The rules do not attempt to describe every possible prohibited activity by students. Students, parents and school staff who have questions about whether a particular activity is prohibited are encouraged to contact a building administrator. These rules apply to all school computers and all school-provided laptops wherever used, and all uses of school servers, Internet access and networks regardless of how they are accessed.

### A. Acceptable Use

1. The school unit's computers, network and Internet services are provided for educational purposes and research consistent with the school unit's educational mission, curriculum and instructional goals.
2. Students must comply with all Board policies, school rules and expectations concerning student conduct and communications when using school computers, whether on or off school property.
3. Students also must comply with all specific instructions from school staff and volunteers when using the school unit's computers.

### B. Prohibited Uses

Unacceptable uses of school unit computers include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **Accessing or Communicating Inappropriate Materials** – Students may not access, submit, post, publish, forward, download, scan or display defamatory, abusive, obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, sexually suggestive, threatening, discriminatory, harassing, bullying and/or illegal materials or messages.
2. **Illegal Activities** – Students may not use the school unit's computers, network and Internet services for any illegal activity or in violation of any Board policy/procedure or school rules. The school unit assumes no responsibility for illegal activities of students while using school computers.
3. **Violating Copyrights or Software Licenses** – Students may not copy, download or share any type of copyrighted materials (including music or films) without the owner's permission; or copy or download software without the express authorization of the Technology Coordinator. Unauthorized copying of software is illegal and may subject the copier to substantial civil and criminal penalties. The school unit assumes no responsibility for copyright or licensing violations by students.
4. **Plagiarism** – Students may not represent as their own work any materials obtained on the Internet (such as term papers, articles, music, etc). When Internet sources are used in student work, the author, publisher and web site must be identified.

5. **Use for Non-School-Related Purposes** - Using the school unit's computers, network and Internet services for any personal reasons not connected with the educational program or school assignments.
6. **Misuse of Passwords/Unauthorized Access** – Students may not share passwords; use other users' passwords; access or use other users' accounts; or attempt to circumvent network security systems.
7. **Malicious Use/Vandalism** – Students may not engage in any malicious use, disruption or harm to the school unit's computers, network and Internet services, including but not limited to hacking activities and creation/uploading of computer viruses.
8. **Avoiding School Filters** – Students may not attempt to or use any software, utilities or other means to access Internet sites or content blocked by the school filters.
9. **Unauthorized Access to Blogs/Social Networking Sites, Etc.** –Students may not access blogs, social networking sites, etc. to which student access is prohibited.

**C. Compensation for Losses, Costs and/or Damages**

The student and his/her parents are responsible for compensating the school unit for any losses, costs or damages incurred for violations of Board policies/procures and school rules while the student is using school unit computers, including the cost of investigating such violations. The school unit assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or costs incurred by a student while using school unit computers.

**D. Student Security**

A student is not allowed to reveal his/her full name, address, telephone number, social security number or other personal information on the Internet while using a school computer without prior permission from a teacher. Students should never agree to meet people they have contacted through the Internet without parental permission. Students should inform their teacher if they access information or messages that are dangerous, inappropriate or make them uncomfortable in any way.

**E. System Security**

The security of the school unit's computers, network and Internet services is a high priority. Any student who identifies a security problem must notify his/her teacher or building administrator immediately. The student shall not demonstrate the problem to others or access unauthorized material.

**F. Additional Rules for Laptops Issued to Students**

1. Laptops are loaned to students as an educational tool and may be used for purposes specifically authorized by school staff and the MLTI program.

2. Both the student and his/her parent must sign the school's acknowledgment form before a laptop is issued. At the middle school, parents are required to attend an informational meeting before a laptop may go home.
3. Students and their families are responsible for the proper care of laptops at all times, whether on or off school property, including costs associated with repairing or replacing the laptop. Gorham School Department offers a laptop protection program for parents to cover replacement costs and/or repair costs for damages not covered by the laptop warranty. **Parents who choose not to purchase laptop protection should be aware that they are responsible for any costs associated with loss, theft or damage to a laptop issued to their child.**
4. If a laptop is lost or stolen, this must be reported to the building administrator immediately. If a laptop is stolen, a report should be made to the local police immediately.
5. The Board's policy and rules concerning computer and Internet use apply to use of laptops at any time or place, on or off school property. Students are responsible for obeying any additional rules concerning care of laptops issued by school staff.
6. Violation of policies or rules governing the use of computers, or any careless use of a laptop may result in a student's laptop being confiscated and/or a student only being allowed to use the laptop under the direct supervision of school staff. The student will also be subject to disciplinary action for any violations of Board policies/procedures or school rules.
7. Parents will be informed of their child's login password. Parents are responsible for supervising their child's use of the laptop and Internet access when in use at home.
8. The laptop may only be used by the student to whom it is assigned and family members to the extent permitted by the MLTI program.
9. All use of school-loaned laptops by all persons must comply with the school's Student Computer Use Policy and Rules.
10. Laptops must be returned in acceptable working order at the end of the school year or whenever requested by school staff.

**G. Additional Rules for Use of Privately-Owned Computers by Students**

1. The Technology Coordinator will determine whether a student's privately-owned computer meets the school unit's network requirements.
2. Requests may be denied if it is determined that there is not a suitable educational basis for the request and/or if the demands on the school unit's network or staff would be unreasonable.

3. The student is responsible for proper care of his/her privately-owned computer, including any costs of repair, replacement or any modifications needed to use the computer at school.
4. The school unit is not responsible for damage, loss or theft of any privately-owned computer.
5. Students are required to comply with all Board policies, administrative procedures and school rules while using privately-owned computers at school.
6. Students have no expectation of privacy in their use of a privately-owned computer while at school. The school unit reserves the right to search a student's privately-owned computer if there is reasonable suspicion that the student has violated Board policies, administrative procedures or school rules, or engaged in other misconduct while using the computer.
7. Violation of any Board policies, administrative procedures or school rules involving a student's privately-owned computer may result in the revocation of the privilege of using the computer at school and/or disciplinary action.
8. The school unit may confiscate any privately-owned computer used by a student in school without authorization as required by these rules. The contents of the computer may be searched in accordance with applicable laws and policies.

Cross Reference: IJNDB – Student Computer and Internet Use