Technology in the Classroom

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Technology has become an essential part of education. To be able to live, learn, and work successfully in our information-rich society, students must be able to utilize technology effectively. Many students’ lives today are filled with technology that gives them access to information and resources, enabling them to pursue their interests in their own way and at their own pace. The opportunities are limitless, borderless, and instantaneous.

Because of this, we are allowing students to bring in electronic devices from home (such as eReaders like Kindles and Nooks, iPods, iPads/tablets, laptops, etc.) to use for projects and assignments in class. For example, students may use their devices during our independent reading time to read ebooks, access the internet for a wide array of reading resources such as Tumblebooks, write stories, work on word work activities, and conduct research. We are very excited about this opportunity as it gives our students more resources to complete their work, helps prepare them for the digital age we live in, and excites and motivates them.

That being said, the use of electronic devices in the classroom is a privilege, and we expect the students to use their devices in appropriate ways that are relevant to the current classroom activity and that are in compliance with school rules governing the acceptable use of technology. If students are using their devices inappropriately, they will be confiscated for the day. If this happens more than once to a particular student, that student will lose his/her electronic device privileges permanently and a parent/guardian must come to pick up the device.

Additionally, when valuable items are brought to school, there is always risk. Any electronic devices brought to school are the sole responsibility of your child. Neither the teachers, nor the Francis Howell School District is liable for any lost, damaged, or stolen devices. That being said, it is certainly not required for your child to have an electronic device to bring into the classroom. There will be plenty of opportunities for your child to use school technology to complete projects. However, if your child would like to bring an electronic device to school, please fill out and sign the attached permission slip. Your child may not bring any electronic device to school for use in my classroom until I have a signed permission slip.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your individual teacher by email or phone.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

The John Weldon Fourth Grade Team
NETWORK and INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES

Internet access is available in the Francis Howell School District (FHSD) to students, teachers, staff, parent(s)/guardian(s), and administrators. Students must use FHSD telecommunications in accordance with District Policy 6320. Students are allowed to access curriculum-related information and research topics and ideas that promote innovation in learning.

Learning how to electronically communicate and navigate through the wealth of information located on both public and private networks are information literacy skills that support student achievement in the 21st century. In some instances, students, if approved by the classroom teacher, will be allowed to bring their own technology for educational purposes (i.e., laptops, iPads, iPads, etc.).

Safety
The District ensures CIPA (Children’s Internet Protection Act) compliance through use of a firewall and filtering. However, students should report to their teacher or other staff members if they access information that makes them feel uncomfortable.

The following actions **ARE** allowable on the district networks:

- Use telecommunications for educational purposes only
- Communicate with others in a respectful and courteous manner
- Obey copyright laws and intellectual property rights of others
- Maintain the privacy of personal name, phone number, address and password, and respect the same privacy of others

These guidelines are provided to make you aware of your responsibilities. The network administrator or the designated FHSD representative may revoke network/computer privileges if the guidelines are not observed.

The following actions are **NOT** allowable on the district networks:

- Sharing confidential information
- Giving out personal information on the Internet
- Trying to bypass or break the security system
- Illegally copying software
- Attempting to destroy or harm data/files of others
- Using obscene language
- Violating copyright laws or plagiarism
- Vandalism of District network or technology
- Giving your password to others
- Harassing, insulting, or harming others in any way
- Accessing pornographic/illegal material
- Trespassing in others’ folders, files or documents
- Utilizing the network for commercial purposes
- Use of non-curricular Internet games
- Use of unauthorized websites
- Uploading viruses, altering data or theft of restricted information system

POSSIBLE DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR VIOLATION
Violating District Policy 6320 regarding network and internet usage will result in disciplinary consequences that include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: 1) suspension or revocation of network privileges; 2) suspension or revocation of Internet access; 3) suspension or revocation of computer access; 4) school suspension; or 5) expulsion.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you wish to deny independent internet usage for your student, please contact the school they attend to obtain the appropriate form.
BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE
PERMISSION FORM

I, ______________________________________ agree to let ___________________________________ bring their personally owned computing device for instructional use at John Weldon Elementary. I understand that the student named above will be permitted to use their personally owned device, subject to the conditions in this document.

I understand that if I agree to allow my student to use their own device that John Weldon Elementary is not responsible for any device or data loss, theft, damage or other associated costs of replacement or repair incurred during the school day or at home as a result of participation in this program. The student named above will take full responsibility for the device and will appropriately secure all devices when not in use.

FHSD uses technological measures such as filtering to promote internet safety. Filtering limits students’ ability to access harmful internet sites from any device connected to the FHSD network, but only when this equipment is used in school on the FHSD network. Access through cellular networks does not provide the same measures of filtering. Students should only use the FHSD network (not private cellular service) for internet access while on FHSD property.

I have verified my student is aware that all aspects of the Francis Howell School District Network and Internet Acceptable Use Guidelines apply to the use and care of their personal device while on FHSD property.

I understand that the purpose of allowing my student to use their own device is to participate in teacher approved activities in support of the FHSD curriculum. Uses of these devices for unrelated activities beyond or outside the FHSD educational program are prohibited.

Inappropriate use of said device will result in confiscation of the device(s) for the day. A second infraction will result in the permanent suspension of the privilege. Moreover, the confiscated device(s) will only be returned to a parent.

____________________________________  __/___/___
Parent or Guardian’s Signature  Date

Student Acceptance:

I agree to adhere to the Acceptable Use Guidelines presented in the Code of Conduct. I will utilize the device(s) for instructional purposes only while at John Weldon or on the FHSD network.

____________________________________  __/___/___
Student Signature  Date

Make/Model of Device: __________________________________________________________

Serial Number: ________________________________________________________________