

Merit College Preparatory Academy
Acceptable Use Policy for Internet and Network Access

We are very pleased to bring internet access to Merit Academy. The internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The internet at Merit Academy is automatically filtered to prevent unacceptable use such as:

1. Searching or navigating to sites involving pornographic or illegal content.
2. Searching or navigating to sites containing malicious content (sites that would hurt network devices and equipment- involving your own device)
3. Gambling websites.

Students and teachers have access to:

1. E-mail
2. Public Domain Sites

Teachers are given "Override Accounts" that allow them access to everything on the internet except pornographic and illegal content. This allows them to use educational content found on YouTube and other streaming media sites, as well as other useful online services.

Students are not allowed to use the override accounts. Students found trying to use these accounts will be disciplined.

If a site is being blocked that can reasonably be considered appropriate for students use on campus, students are able to ask administration that the site be evaluated and unblocked.

Students are allowed to bring their own personal device that is connected to the internet via service they pay for (*i.e. iPads, smart phones, kindles with 4G/3G internet service provided by a cell phone company*). Content accessed through this medium cannot be monitored or filtered by Merit Academy.

Teachers may allow students to access their devices for educational purposes.

Students and parents agree that:

1. If a student uses a device without the teacher's permission:
 - 1st offense:** Student's device will be confiscated and the student can pick it up from the teacher at the end of the day.
 - 2nd offense:** Student's device will be confiscated and taken to the front office. Student can pick it up at the end of the day.
 - 3rd offense:** Student's device will be confiscated and taken to the front office. A parent or guardian will need to pick it up - it will not be released to the student.
2. The student will not access or search out sites containing pornographic or illegal content such as using school provided network infrastructures.
 - a. Obscene, nude, sexually explicit, R-Rated, or explicit images or content
 - b. Illegal drugs, criminal behavior, hate or discrimination, school cheating, or terrorist activities.

**Students reported accessing the content listed in 2a and 2b will be investigated with the possibility of, but not limited to, Parental conference, suspension or expulsion from school, and/or civil and criminal charges filed against the student.*

**Students attempting to physically vandalize, hack into, or compromise networks or network and computer equipment in any way will be disciplined up to suspension or expulsion from school, and/or civil and criminal charges filed against them.*

STUDENT:

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Merit College Preparatory Academy acceptable use policy for internet and network access.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN:

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Internet Use Agreement. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes. Merit Academy has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. However, I also recognize it is impossible for School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my student's use is not in a school setting.