

INTERNET
Acceptable Use Policy
Yosemite Unified School District
www.yosemitehs.com

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Yosemite students and staff now have access to the myriad information sources available on the Internet through a direct connection with the Madera Office of Education in our computer labs, the Library Media Center, and classrooms.

Our goal in providing Internet access is to promote a world-class education in our district. The Internet at the Yosemite Union School District has been established for a **limited educational purpose**. The term “educational purpose” includes classroom activities, career development, and limited high quality self-discovery activities. The system has not been established as a public access service or public forum and the District has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material students access or post through the system.

At this time individual E-mail accounts are available through Hot Mail, Yahoo Mail, etc. These may be set up individually and are not monitored. “Chat” and instant messaging, and social networking sites, like MySpace, are forbidden.

USE OF THE YUSD NETWORK AND THE INTERNET / DISCIPLINE

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges.

Students and adults using the District’s Internet connection will be held to a strict code of conduct and responsibility when using the Internet. The District has concerns about personal safety, illegal activities, system security, plagiarism and copyright infringement, and access to inappropriate material.

“On-Line stalking” is a modern day danger, therefore, maintain your personal privacy and the privacy of your friends and colleagues by not posting personal information. This includes giving your name, phone number, or address to others via the Internet. Never attempt to meet anyone you have met via the Internet without your parents knowledge.

The information and interaction available on the Internet carries with it the possibility that users may procure material that may be offensive or lack all educational merit. The District recognizes that there is inappropriate material on the Internet and is taking reasonable precautions to restrict areas that we know are inappropriate. All school computers are “filtered”. But this is not fool proof. Persons who purposefully navigate to sexually explicit sites or web pages which directly or indirectly promote hatred, social discord, or any illegal activities will immediately lose all Internet privileges and will face disciplinary action.

Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, defamatory, threatening, racially offensive, or obscene material or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.

Furthermore, students may not use material they have obtained from the Internet and claim it as their own. Giving authors credit for their words and ideas is an important educational practice. Many students caught up in Web “surfing” become focused on the idea and not on the sources used.

Backtracking to the source can be difficult. It is important to develop a note-taking system to keep track of and properly cite all sources. Plagiarism is a punishable offense and can result in a failing grade on a class assignment and/or administrative discipline. Many teachers now require that students submit their work to a plagiarism site, www.turnitin.com, plus turn in a hard copy. Teachers will provide instructions on how to do this.

Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel that you can identify a security problem on the school's local area network or the Internet, you must notify a teacher or an administrator. Tampering with the network or attempting to get past student defined areas on the network will result in loss of computer privileges. All disciplinary problems will be referred to the administration.

Internet access by YUSD students is limited to areas of educational benefit. If a user violates any of the provisions in this document, his or her Internet privileges may be terminated and further disciplinary action will be considered in line with existing guidelines regarding inappropriate language or behavior. Depending on the seriousness of the offense, any combination of the following policies/procedures will be enforced: Education code, district policy and procedures, school site discipline. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

For security, students will **post their student body ID card** on the computer monitor **when using the Internet in the Library Media Center**. All computers are protected with a filter from the Madera County Office of Education. If a student attempts to bypass the filter, they will lose Internet privileges.

RESPONSIBILITIES – you are expected to abide by these generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

Do Not

- a) Use abusive or objectionable language in either public or private messages.
- b) Send messages that are likely to result in the loss of recipients' work or systems (i.e. *viruses*).
- c) Reveal your personal address or phone number or those of students or colleagues.
- d) Post commercial messages.
- e) Copy, save, or redistribute copyrighted materials.
- f) Plagiarize material obtained from the Internet.
- g) Intentionally waste time and/or limited resources.
- h) Offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the system.
- i) Place "wallpaper" on the library computer desktops. Desktops are to remain neutral with program icons only.
- j) Change the settings or configuration on school computers or "hack" computer systems.
- k) Load personal software onto school computers.
- l) Download games or play games.
- m) Instant message, "Chat".
- n) Download music or listen to Internet Radio. Compromise YHS bandwidth by personal downloading of music, streaming video, games, etc.
- o) Use proxies to access websites that are filtered (example: MySpace.com).