

Network/Internet access is available to all students, teachers, and staff in McPherson USD 418. This policy has been adopted by the McPherson Board of Education and all users are expected to adhere to these guidelines.

Technology Instruction

Technology has become an integral part of our everyday lives. The board and administration strive to provide a balanced technology program to ensure that employees and students have the following opportunities:

- to participate in a technology literacy program,
- to gain an understanding of the applications of technology in today's society,
- to gain an understanding of the social implications of technology applications to society,
- to develop basic skills in general technology use in home and work-related settings,
- to develop skills in the use of technology as instructional tools,
- to develop programs and materials to assist the district in providing excellence in education, and
- to develop vocational skills which can lead to further training or employment opportunities in the field.

Goals

1. Technology literacy education for all students that provides the following:
 - a. Understanding of what technology is and how it evolved.
 - b. Appreciation of the capabilities and limitations of technology.
 - c. Knowledge regarding careers that are either directly or indirectly technology-related.
 - d. Awareness of the implications of technology to society.
 - e. Competence in basic skills for personal use of technology.
2. Technology literacy for all staff appropriate to their assignment.

Networks and Internet

The purpose of providing internet and electronic mail access to students and staff is to promote resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

McPherson USD 418 recognizes that with the use of technology comes the possibility that users may access material that is not considered to be of educational value in the school setting. However, McPherson USD 418 firmly believes that the valuable information and interaction available on the worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may obtain material that is not consistent with the educational goals of the district.

In an effort to minimize access to inappropriate internet sites on school computers, a filtering system will be utilized. Specific categories and levels of filtering will be determined by the district technology committee and reviewed on an annual basis. To date, no filtering system has been proven to be 100% accurate and inappropriate material may occasionally pass through the filter. Inappropriate sites which are not identified by the filter may be submitted to the district technology department for review and appropriate action.

Internet and electronic mail access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the

proper conduct of the users. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. Communication over networks and the internet should not be considered private. Messages may sometimes be diverted accidentally to a destination other than the one intended. Privacy is not guaranteed.

The district reserves the right to access stored records in cases where there is a reasonable suspicion that there has been a violation or misuse of the system.

If a user violates provisions, their account will be terminated and future access and usage may be denied. In addition, disciplinary measures may be taken by supervisory personnel.

Acceptable Use

The internet provides a connection to millions of computers worldwide. The internet can be used to access information that promotes learning and supports the educational objectives of McPherson USD 418. The district requires legal, ethical, and appropriate use of the network/internet. Transmission of any material in violation of any United States or state regulations is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene materials, or material protected by trade secret. Use of the network for commercial activities, product advertisement, religious proselytizing, or political lobbying is prohibited.

Privileges

Access to McPherson USD 418 network/internet is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. Students will be advised at the beginning of each school year what is considered appropriate use as well as inappropriate use of their technology accounts. These same guidelines will also be addressed in student-parent handbooks. Staff may recommend to a building administrator that individual accounts be denied, revoked, or suspended due to inappropriate use.

Disclaimer

McPherson USD 418 makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it provides. The district is not responsible for any damages, including loss of data resulting from delays, non deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence or errors or omissions. The district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Security

Security problems on the network/internet should be immediately reported to the district technology coordinator. Unauthorized attempts to access the system as an operator, or any other violation of security guidelines, will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user who is identified as a security risk or who has committed violations on another computer system may be denied access to the network/internet.

Vandalism

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges to use district computers. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, data of another user, the internet, or any agencies or other networks that are connected to the internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or the creation of computer viruses. The district reserves the right to seek monetary reimbursement for any and all damages incurred to the system as the result of vandalism.