Internet Parent Permission

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please review and keep the attached GCS Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy in its entirety and return this copy signed by the Parent or Guardian and Student to Gillingham Charter School in order for them to use the technology available.

- *If you do want to allow your child to have access to online resources, such as the Internet, e-mail, and online word processing applications, you must notify GCS by filling out and returning to GCS the "Approval of Permission" section of this form.*
- *If you do not want to allow your child to have access to online resources, such as the Internet, e-mail, and online word processing applications, you must notify GCS immediately by filling out and returning to GCS the "Denial of Permission" section of this form.*

If you allow your child to have access to online resources, understand that in exchange for the privilege of your child using the GCS computer system and online resources, you are releasing Gillingham Charter School from all claims and damages of any nature arising from your child's use of, or inability to use, the system.

Additionally, while Gillingham Charter School makes every attempt to prohibit students from accessing controversial material by using web content filtering, spam filtering and other measures, recognize it is impossible for GCS to restrict access to all controversial materials and you are agreeing you will not hold GCS responsible for materials acquired on the network.

PARENT/GUARDIAN APPROVAL OF PERMISSION FORM

I grant that my child_____, be given access to the Gillingham Charter School computer network, online resources, and electronic mail, and I approve permission for his/her use. I further acknowledge I have read and understand the GCS "Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy."

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:

Print_____Signature_____Date_____

STUDENT NAME:

Print_____Signature_____Date_____

*For student access, the parent/guardian and student must sign and return this form. The above signatures acknowledge that both parent and student have read and understand the Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Gillingham Charter School.

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PARENT/GUARDIAN DENIAL OF PERMISSION FORM

I would prefer that my child_____, **not** be given access to the Gillingham Charter School computer network and online resources and I deny permission for his/her use. I understand my child will still be given access to computers for more traditional purposes, such as word processing.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

COMPUTER/INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
2018-2019 Parent Packet

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Gillingham Charter School (GCS) is pleased to inform you that it provides technology resources via access to a computer network for electronic mail and the Internet to your child. Access to mail and the Internet will enable your child to explore thousands of libraries, databases, museums and other repositories of information, create word processing documents, and to communicate with other GCS users. GCS only allows students to exchange email with other GCS students, faculty and staff, and has restrictions that prevent students from sending or receiving email from people outside of GCS.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the GCS "Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy." This policy outlines the rules and regulations your child must abide by when using the GCS computer system and online resources. The policy also makes clear that GCS disclaims responsibility for certain issues over which it cannot exercise complete control, such as student misuse or unauthorized use of the system or the Internet. Please review the Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy in its entirety and return a copy signed by the Parent or Guardian and Student to Gillingham Charter School.

- If you do want to allow your child to have access to online resources, such as the Internet, e-mail, and online word processing applications, you must notify GCS by filling out and returning to GCS the "Approval of Permission" section of the form on the next page.
- If you do not want to allow your child to have access to online resources, such as the Internet, e-mail, and online word processing applications, you must notify GCS immediately by filling out and returning to GCS the "Denial of Permission" section of the form on the next page.

If you allow your child to have access to online resources, understand that in exchange for the privilege of your child using the GCS computer system and online resources, you are releasing Gillingham Charter School from all claims and damages of any nature arising from your child's use of, or inability to use, the system. Additionally, while Gillingham Charter School makes every attempt to prohibit students from accessing controversial material by using web content filtering, spam filtering and other measures, recognize it is impossible for GCS to restrict access to all controversial materials and you are agreeing you will not hold GCS responsible for materials acquired on the network.

GCS Acceptable Use Policy

Gillingham Charter School (GCS) provides technology resources to its employees, students, volunteers, and other parties for educational purposes. The goal in providing these resources is to promote educational excellence at GCS by facilitating with the support and supervision of parents, teachers, administration and support staff: 1. creativity and innovation, 2. research and information fluency, 3. critical thinking, problem solving and decision making, 4. digital citizenship, 5. Communication and collaboration, and 6. technology operations and concepts. The use of these technology resources is a privilege, not a right.

Guidelines for the Use of the Computer Network/Internet

I. Internet users are expected to use the Internet as an educational resource.
   a. Users are to receive instruction in the proper use of the Internet and GCS's computer network through a review of the Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
   b. All users are required to sign GCS's "Acknowledgment" indicating their understanding and acceptance of the guidelines as set forth in this policy. Employees, students, and other parties may then use the Internet and the school's technology resources.
   c. Parents are mailed a copy of the Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy and an explanatory letter, thereby being notified of the contents of this Policy and that their children will have access to the school's computer network and the Internet. Parents have the option of denying permission for their child to use the Internet.
   d. All users including students are responsible for their explorations on the Internet and are subject to the consequences of failing to abide by the GCS Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy, as set forth in Section IV below.

II. Internet users are expected to behave responsibly in accessing and viewing information that is pertinent to the educational mission of GCS.
All users are required to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
   a. Use of appropriate language. Criminal speech and speech used in the course of committing a crime (for example: threats to the President or to any other person; instructions on breaking into computer systems; child pornography; drug dealing; purchase of alcohol; gang activities; etc.)
   b. Speech that is inappropriate in an educational setting or violates GCS rules: (a) Inappropriate language--obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, disrespectful, threatening or inflammatory language; harassment; personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks; or false or defamatory material about a person or organization.
   c. Dangerous information--information that if acted upon could cause damage or present a danger of disruption.

    d.   Violations of privacy--revealing personal information about others

III. GCS may require that publications meet a variety of standards related to adequacy of research, spelling and grammar and appropriateness of material (i.e., that school Web pages must relate to school and career preparation activities). Access to Information. Users are prohibited from accessing the following categories of material or information on the Internet or World Wide Web.

    a.   Material that is profane or obscene
    b.   Material that is pornographic, expressly including child pornography;
    c.   Material that is harmful to minors (i.e., pictures or visual depictions which, taken as a whole, appeal to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or perverted or lewd acts);. material that advocates or condones the commission of unlawful acts;
    d.   Material that advocates or condones violence or discrimination towards other people.

IV. Online Safety/Privacy

    a.   Our curriculum focuses on educating students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response. All students participate in an interactive presentation prior to the end of the school year.
    b.   Student users are prohibited from giving out personal information about themselves or other students, such as addresses, telephone numbers, parents' work addresses or telephone numbers or the name and location of their school, even through email correspondence, unless specifically authorized by GCS and with the consent of the students' parents/guardians.
    c.   Students must tell their teachers or parents immediately if they come across any information which makes them feel uncomfortable.
    d.   Students must never agree to get together with someone they "meet" online without first discussing it with their parents. If their parents agree to the meeting, students must ensure that the meeting is in a public place and that they accompanied by one of their parents.

VI. Electronic mail (e-mail); Users may only use e-mail solutions approved by GCS.

    a.   Users must understand that there is no guarantee of privacy in their e-mail messages and that e-mail messages are subject to GCS review at any time. Technology Protection Measures will be used to red-flag e-mails that violate the law or GCS policy/rule.
    b.   Routine maintenance and monitoring of GCS systems may lead to discovery that a user has violated the law or a GCS policy/rule. An individualized search of a user's email will be conducted if there is a reasonable suspicion that a user has violated the law or GCS policy/rule.
    c.   E- mail should be used only for legitimate educational purposes or as authorized by GCS.
    d.   Users should be courteous and respectful in their e-mail messages to others.
    e.   The use of e-mail accounts will be permitted for instructional purposes aligned to the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (NETS*S) and for the attainment of the school's educational goals.
    f.   Plagiarism. Users are reminded that it is plagiarism to "cut and paste" information from the Internet and then pass it off as their own original ideas. Users are prohibited from plagiarizing information and resources from the Internet and are reminded to cite properly sources used from the Internet.

    g.   Copyright infringement. All communications and information via the network (i.e., the Internet) should be assumed to be private property and protected by copyright. Users may not reproduce copyrighted material without explicit permission of the author/owner.
    h.   Unauthorized or Disruptive use/"Hacking." Users are prohibited from using the GCS network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users. Users may not create or share computer viruses, or destroy another person's data. Users may not break in or attempt to break into other computer systems or access files without authorization.
    i.   Purchase of products or services. Users are prohibited from purchasing products or services through the GCS network. GCS is not responsible for any financial obligations arising from unauthorized use of the GCS network for the purchase of products or services.
    j.   Passwords/accounts. Users may not give their passwords to anyone, or offer Internet access to any individual via their account.
    k.   Unauthorized Disclosure, Use or Dissemination of Personal Information. Users may not disclose, use or disseminate personal information about students, especially minor students, without the authorization of that student's parent/guardian and without specific authorization from GCS.

III. Disclaimers of Liability.

    a.   When utilizing online resources, there is always the risk of a system failure which could result in loss of data, interruption of service, etc. GCS disclaims any responsibility for losses incurred as a result of system failure and users are advised to make a personal backup of material contained/saved on the network.
    b.   GCS cannot ensure the reliability or accuracy of information maintained on the computer system or accessed through the GCS system. GCS disclaims responsibility for losses incurred as a result of reliance on unreliable or inaccurate information.
    c.   GCS disclaims responsibility for user misuse or unauthorized use of the system and disclaims responsibility for harm caused to the users themselves, to other persons or to organizations through misuse or unauthorized use of the GCS computer system as set forth in this policy.
    d.   Due to the nature of the vast amount of information and material available on the Internet, it is impossible for GCS to restrict completely access to all controversial materials. As such, GCS is not responsible for materials acquired or viewed by users on the GCS network and/or the Internet.

IV. Consequences of Violating the Acceptable Use Policy.

    a.   Users will be notified of each alleged violation of the Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy and will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegation.
    b.   Depending on the severity of the violation of the Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy, users face disciplinary consequences ranging from warning to loss of privilege of use of the Internet/GCS network. Repeated less severe violations of the Acceptable Use Policy will be treated as more serious violations of the Policy. All discipline resulting from a violation of this policy will be handled pursuant to the requirements and procedures set forth in GCS policies.
    c.   Suspicion of a user's illegal use of the Internet/GCS network, such as copyright violations, theft of services, using the system to publish defamatory statements, may be reported to the appropriate legal authorities for possible prosecution.

d. Users are responsible for damages to the equipment, systems, and software resulting from deliberate or willful acts.
e. *Users should be aware that GCS utilizes Technology Protection Measures that block or filters internet access to non-approved web tools and applications, as well as other categories of material or information which the school has deemed inappropriate for viewing in the educational setting.

*For student access, the parent/guardian and student must sign and return the attached form indicating APPROVAL or DENIAL. Your signature acknowledges that both parent and student have read and understand the Computer/Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Gillingham Charter School.