



Subject: Student Internet Use and Digital Citizenship Policy

Effective Date: TBD Upon Board Approval

Approved By: Board of Directors

Policy: 5021.1

New technologies are modifying the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred. Those changes also alter instruction and student learning at Vista Springs VSCS (“VSCS”). VSCS offers students access to technologies that may include Internet access, electronic mail, and equipment, such as computers, tablets, or other multimedia hardware. The VSCS Governing Board intends that technological resources provided by the school be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

Educational Purpose

Use of VSCS equipment, and access to the Internet via VSCS equipment and resource networks, is for the goal of pursuing educational purposes. Student and staff use of the Internet using VSCS equipment and resource networks is therefore limited to only those activities that further or enhance the delivery of education. Students and staff have a duty to use VSCS resources only in a manner specified in this Policy.

“Educational purpose” means classroom activities, research in academic subjects, career or professional development activities, VSCS approved personal research activities, or other purposes as defined by the VSCS from time to time.

“Inappropriate use” means a use that is inconsistent with an educational purpose or that is in clear violation of this policy and the Digital Citizenship Agreement.

Notice and Use

The VSCS shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of school computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities. Before a student is authorized to use the VSCS's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Digital Citizenship Agreement. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the VSCS or any VSCS staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, user mistakes or negligence.

They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the VSCS and VSCS personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

Safety

The VSCS shall ensure that all VSCS computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to websites that have no educational purpose and/or contain visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors. However, while the VSCS is able exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the VSCS, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. The Digital Citizenship Agreement will ask parents to waive any claim that the VSCS and its staff are responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence.