



Great Valley Academy

Student Use of Technology and Acceptable Use Agreement

New technologies are modifying the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred. Those changes also alter instruction and student learning. The Great Valley Academy Charter School (“Charter School”) offers students access to technologies that may include Internet access, electronic mail, and equipment, such as computers, tablets, or other multimedia hardware. The Charter School 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 Charter School equipment and access to the Internet via Charter School equipment and resource networks is intended to serve and pursue educational goals and purposes. Student use of the Internet is therefore limited to only those activities that further or enhance the delivery of education. Students and staff have a duty to use Charter School resources only in a manner specified in the Policy.

“**Educational purpose**” means classroom activities, research in academic subjects, career or professional development activities, Charter School approved personal research activities, or other purposes as defined by the Charter School 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 Acceptable Use Agreement.

Notice and Use

The Charter School 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 Charter School's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold the Charter School or any Charter School staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Charter School and Charter School personnel for any damages or costs incurred.

Safety

The Charter School shall ensure that all Charter School 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. While the Charter School is able exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the Charter School, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither the Charter School nor its staff shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence.

To reinforce these measures, the Director or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities. Staff shall supervise students while they are using online services and may have teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers assist in this supervision.

The Director or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

The Director or designees shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, maintaining the student's online reputation and ensuring their personal safety by keeping their personal information private, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying. Students are expected to follow safe practices when using Charter School technology.

Students shall not use the Internet to perform any illegal act or to help others perform illegal acts. Illegal acts include, but are not limited to, any activities in violation of local, state, and federal law and/or accessing information designed to further criminal or dangerous activities. Such information includes, but is not limited to, information that if acted upon could cause damage, present a danger, or cause disruption to the Charter School, other students, or the community. Damaging, debilitating or disabling computers, computer networks or systems through the intentional or overuse of electronic distribution or the spreading of computer viruses or other harmful programs shall be prohibited. Any unauthorized online access to other computers by means of hacking into other computers, downloading hacker tools such as port scanners and password crackers designed to evade restrictions shall also be strictly prohibited.

Student use of Charter School computers to access social networking sites is not prohibited, but access is limited to educational purposes only. To the extent possible, the Director or designee shall block access to such sites on Charter School computers with Internet access. The Director or designee shall oversee the maintenance of the Charter School's technological resources and may establish guidelines and limits on their use.

All employees shall receive a copy of this policy and the accompanying Acceptable Use Agreement describing expectations for appropriate use of the system and shall also be provided with information about the role of staff in supervising student use of technological resources. All employees shall comply with this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement, in addition to any separate policies governing employee use of technology.

Student use of school computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Compliance with the Charter School's policies and rules concerning computer use is mandatory. Students who violate these policies and rules may have their computer privileges limited and may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion per school policy.

ACCEPTABLE USE

The Charter School believes that providing access to technology enhances the educational experience for students. However, student use of school computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. To make that experience successful for everyone, students must abide by the following terms and conditions:

1. **Security.** Students shall not impair the security of Charter School technology resources. Students are expected to:
 - a. Safeguard all personal passwords. Students should not share passwords with others and should change passwords frequently. Students are expected to notify an administrator immediately if they believe their student account has been compromised.
 - b. Access technology only with their account or with a shared account as directed by their teacher and not to allow others to use their account or to use the accounts of others, with or without the account owner's authorization.
2. **Authorized Use.** Students may use Charter School technology resources when directed by a teacher, when technology has been designated for open student use (e.g., computers in the library), and for other educational purposes.
3. **Protection Measures.** While the Charter School is able exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by the Charter School, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither the Charter School nor its staff shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. The student and parent agree not to hold the Charter School or any Charter School staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Charter School and Charter School personnel for any damages or costs incurred.
4. **Electronic Information Resources (Internet).** The Charter School recognizes the importance of providing students access to Electronic Information Resources (Internet) in order to enhance and support age and grade appropriate school adopted instructional goals and standards. It is the Charter School's intent to protect students from inappropriate information but school personnel cannot screen all materials available on the Internet. Willful access to inappropriate material is a violation of school policy and may result in the revocation of network privileges and other disciplinary action consistent with the law and designated school rules.

Guidelines for Use of Electronic Resources (Internet)

- a. **Be Polite:** Never send or encourage others to send messages that are not polite. Use electronic resources wisely. Log off when you are finished.
- b. **Use Appropriate, Respectful Language:** In your messages, always use language that you know is appropriate and respectful.
- c. **Privacy:** Don not send any message that includes personal information such as your name, home address or phone number of yourself or any other person.

- d. Misuse: Report any misuse on the Internet to your teacher/principal.
 - e. Electronic Mail (E-mail): Use e-mail for educational purposes only.
 - f. Vandalism: Never move, delete, or trash any applications or files that are not yours.
 - g. Information: Some information accessed by the use of electronic services may or may not be accurate. The Charter School makes no guarantees of any kind concerning the accuracy of information obtained online.
5. **Inappropriate Use.** Charter School technology, hardware, software and bandwidth are shared and limited resources and all users have an obligation to use those resources responsibly. Students are provided access to the Charter School technology primarily for educational purposes. Students shall not use Charter School technology or equipment for personal activities or for activities that violate school policy or local law. These include but are not limited to:
- a. Playing games or online gaming.
 - b. Downloading software, music, movies or other content in violation of licensing requirements, copyright or other intellectual property rights.
 - c. Installing software on Charter School equipment without the permission of a teacher or other authorized Charter School staff person.
 - d. Downloading, viewing or sharing inappropriate content, including pornographic, defamatory or otherwise offensive material.
 - e. Conducting any activity that is in violation of school policy, the student code of conduct or local, state or federal law.
 - f. Engaging in any activity that is harmful to other student(s), including the use of technology to harass, intimidate, bully or otherwise disrupt the educational process.
 - g. Participating in political activities.
 - h. Conducting for-profit business.
 - i. Using hacking tools on the network or intentionally introducing malicious code or viruses into the Charter School's network.
 - j. Using any software or proxy service to obscure either the student's IP address or the sites that the student visits.
 - k. Disabling, bypassing, or attempting to disable or bypass any system monitoring, filtering or other security measures.
 - l. Accessing or attempting to access material or systems on the network that the student is not authorized to access.
6. **No Expectation of Privacy.** Student acknowledges that computer equipment, Internet access networks, email accounts, and any other technology resources are owned by Charter School and provided to students for educational purposes. The Charter School may require staff to monitor and supervise all access to computer equipment, Internet access networks, and email accounts. To facilitate monitoring of activities, computer screens may be positioned so that they are visible to the staff member supervising the students. The Charter School reserves the right to access stored computer records and communications, files, and other data stored on Charter School equipment or sent over Charter School networks. Such communications, files, and data are not private and may be accessed during routine system maintenance; during inspection of Charter School equipment at the end of the school year/term or agree to use period; and review of individual files or monitoring of individual activity when there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is engaging in an inappropriate use.
7. **Disruptive Activity.** Students should not intentionally interfere with the performance of the Charter School's network or intentionally damage any Charter School technology resources.
8. **Unauthorized Networks.** Students may not create unauthorized wireless networks to access the Charter School's network. This includes establishing wireless access points, wireless routers and open networks on personal devices.
9. **Consequences of Inappropriate Use.** Students who violate this Agreement will be subject to discipline which may include loss of access to Charter School technology resources and/or other appropriate disciplinary or legal action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and applicable laws.

After reading the Student Use of Technology Policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement, please complete the acknowledgement form to indicate your agreement with the terms and conditions provided. The signatures of both the student and parent/guardian are required before access may be granted to the technologies available. This document, which incorporates the Use Procedure, reflects the entire agreement and understanding of all parties.