

BOCA RATON CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTER/INTERNET USE POLICY:

Internet access is available to students and teachers at **Boca Raton Christian School (BRCS)**. The goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. Access to the Internet enables students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and Websites throughout the world.

With access to computers and people from around the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. Families should be warned that some material obtained via the net might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive. BRCS is part of the State of Florida's Education Network (FIRN). Therefore, material that is accessed is filtered through this service provider. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information, either by accident or deliberately. BRCS believes, however, that the benefits to students from online access outweigh the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with the school's goals.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that use of Internet resources is consistent with our stated mission, goals, and objectives. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the students and faculty who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. If a user violates any of these provisions, future access will be denied in accordance with the rules and regulations discussed with each user during Internet training sessions.

All students must obtain parental permission in order to gain access to the Internet. Students are trained to be good Cyber Citizens through the iSafe program. Signatures on this Computer Use Policy are legally binding and indicate that the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

Computer Use - Terms and Conditions

- (1) Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer network, just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.
- (2) Computers are provided for students to use as tools in learning, to conduct research, and to communicate with others. They are only to be used for educational purposes. Therefore, "surfing the Web" is not permitted. Students must have an educational goal when using the Internet.
- (3) Email may only be accessed under the direction of a teacher and must be for an educational purpose. Chatting or Instant Messaging is not permitted.
- (3) Users are expected to abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette and conduct themselves in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner while online.
- (4) Users are not permitted to use computer resources for commercial purposes, product advertising, political lobbying, or political campaigning.
- (5) Users are not permitted to transmit, receive, submit, or publish any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal material.
- (6) Physical or electronic tampering with computer resources is not permitted. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks intentionally will result in cancellation of privileges and/or a fine.

- (7) Users must respect all copyright laws that protect software owners, artists and writers. Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated.
- (8) Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you think you can identify a security problem in the school's computers, network, or Internet connection, notify your teacher immediately. Do not demonstrate the problem to others. Using someone else's ID or password or trespassing in another's folders, work, or files is prohibited. Attempts to log on to the network as anyone but yourself will result in a \$50 fine and cancellation of computer privileges.
- (9) **Boca Raton Christian School** makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The school assumes no responsibility or liability for any phone charges, line costs or usage fees, nor for any damages a user may suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, nondeliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. BRCS specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
- (10) All communication and information accessible via computer resources shall be regarded as private property. However, people who operate the system may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- (11) Students may not download files from the Internet or upload files from a disk to the school network unless granted permission by a faculty member. Any files received or uploaded to the network must be checked by a virus scanner under a faculty or staff person's direction.

Access to computers is a privilege - not a right. That access entails responsibility. Inappropriate use will result in suspension or cancellation of computer privileges. The system administrators in conjunction with school personnel will deem what is inappropriate use. Users are considered subject to all local, state, and federal laws.

**BOCA RATON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
COMPUTER/INTERNET USE AGREEMENT**

STUDENT SECTION

I have read the BRCS Computer/Internet Use Policy. I agree to follow the rules contained in this Policy. I understand that if I violate the rules, my privileges may be terminated and I may face other disciplinary measures (including fines).

User Name (please print): _____ Grade: _____

User Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SECTION

As the parent or legal guardian of the student signing above, I have read the BRCS Computer/Internet Use Policy and grant permission for my son or daughter to access the Internet. I understand that the school's computing resources are designed for educational purposes. I also understand that it is impossible for **Boca Raton Christian School** to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. I understand that individuals and families may be held liable for violations. Furthermore, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

Parent Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home Address: _____ Phone: _____