Student Internet Rules

Teachers and administrators at Downtown Elementary can limit or suspend student internet usage at school if a student does not follow the Student Internet Rules. Please understand the MCS board policy (6.304) and know that students can receive corrective or disciplinary action for cyber bullying.

Safety

1: Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information when you’re chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number and password.

2: Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents’ or carers’ permission and even then only when they can be present. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time.

3: Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don’t know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!

4: Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows. If you like chatting online it’s best to only chat to your real world friends and family.

5: Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Passwords

Treat your password like your toothbrush--don’t share it with anyone and change it often. Always remember to logoff when you have finished with an online service.

Good Manners

1. Avoid hurting someone's feelings with e-mail or messages. Sometimes, online, people can't tell that you are joking. When you write an e-mail or a message, make sure the person you're sending it to will know whether you are happy, sad, angry, joking, etc. You can do this by using smileys, such as :). Remember that using all capital letters is considered shouting.

2. Respect other people's online rights. Don’t send chain letters, rude messages, or threatening emails. People on the Internet have rights just as they do in everyday life. If someone sends you e-mail which threatens you or makes you feel uncomfortable, talk to a parent or other adult right away.

3. Avoid "crashing" or “trolling” discussion groups or forums. People on the Net frequently get together online to talk about things they may have in common. This can be done on a listserv, a bulletin board, a chat group, etc. If you join the discussion just for the fun of "crashing" it, or ruining it, people will definitely get angry.

4. Respect the privacy of other people. Sharing your own password with someone else, even someone you like, is never a good idea. Passwords and personal information are private, and are never safe to share with others. Do not ask other people for passwords or other private and personal information.

5. Be responsible online. When you are at the computer, you are in control. Avoid using the computer to harm other people. Taking things which are not yours (such as files or passwords), spreading rumors about other people online, and infecting other computers with viruses (on purpose) are examples of harming other people online.

Memphis City Schools Board Policy 6.304 Student Harassment, Bullying and Intimidation

A substantiated charge against a student may result in corrective or disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Student harassment, bullying, and intimidation includes “cyber bullying”--bullying through the use of the Internet or through telecommunication technologies, such as telephones, cell phones and text messaging. For more information please visit: