



THE BRIDGE ACADEMY

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY (AUP) ON ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION, SERVICES AND NETWORKS

Freedom of expression is an inalienable human right, for minors as well as adults. This includes the right to receive information. The Bridge Academy of New Jersey (BANJ) will honor this right by providing access to information via traditional formats and via computer-based technology such as the Internet.

BANJ supports the use of the Internet because expanding information access is a tool for life-long learning. Students and staff who use the Internet have greater opportunities to discover and share resources, as well as to communicate and collaborate with others.

Purpose, Protocol and Intent:

- The purpose of BANJ-provided Internet access is to facilitate communication in support of research and education. To remain eligible as users, student's use must be in support of and consistent with the educational objectives of BANJ. Technology access is a privilege, not a right.
- BANJ will provide access and instruction to students on the appropriate use of these media. In making decisions regarding student access to the Internet, BANJ considers its own stated educational mission, goals, and objectives. Outside of school, families bear responsibility for guidance of Internet use in the same way they monitor access to information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive media.
- Students utilizing BANJ-provided Internet access, hardware and software must first have the permission of and be supervised by the BANJ staff. The BANJ faculty will blend thoughtful use of the Internet throughout the curriculum and will provide guidance and instruction to students in its use. Students are responsible for good behavior on-line, just as they are in a classroom or another area of the school.
- Users should not expect that files stored on school-based computers will always be private. Electronic messages and files stored on school-based computers may be treated like school lockers. Administrators and faculty may review files and messages to maintain system integrity and insure that users are acting responsibly.
- While BANJ's intent is to make Internet access available in order to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. In addition, it is possible to purchase certain goods and services via the Internet which could result in unwanted financial obligations for which a student's parent or guardian would be liable. Parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information services.

The following uses of school-provided technology and Internet access are forbidden:

- A. violating copyright or intellectual property agreement of another individual or organization without permission;
- B. accessing another individual's materials, information, or files without permission;
- C. violating any local, state, or federal statute;
- D. vandalizing, damaging, or disabling the property of another individual or organization; and;
- E. accessing or transmitting obscene, abusive, sexually explicit, or threatening language.

Any violation of school policy and rules will result in loss of BANJ-provided access to technology, including the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be taken. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be included.

By signing I am stating that I have read (or heard), understood and agreed to the above.

Student/Staff

Date

Parent/Guardian

Date