

DMCS Internet Policy and Procedure

Internet Access for Students Code No. 603.81

Telecommunications, electronic information sources, and networked services significantly alter the information landscape by opening classrooms to a broader array of resources and by enabling students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with people throughout the world. The Board of Directors recognizes that as other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated, and transferred by members of society, those changes will also alter instruction and student learning.

While instructional and library media materials can usually be screened based on selection criteria prior to use, electronic sources of information are not always capable of being screened in advance. Because the global network leads to any publicly available fileserver in the world, electronic information resources may become available which have not been screened by educators for use by students of various ages. Further, students may find ways to access materials as well. The Board of Directors believes, however, that the benefits to students and staff from access to information resources and opportunities for collaboration exceed the possible disadvantages. The Board of Directors supports access by students and staff members to a variety of information resources.

Des Moines Christian School offers access to the school computer network for educational use of the Internet. To gain access to the Internet, all students must obtain parental/guardian permission and must sign and return a permission form to the Office. The permission form will need to be completed once during the student's K-6 grade and once during the student's 7-12 grade.

The instructional staff will use a variety of information resources throughout the curriculum and provide guidance and instruction in order for the students to analyze and evaluate such resources. The staff should honor, as much as possible, guidelines for instructional material selection while working with students in the new technologies.

Des Moines Christian School supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply for student access. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards. While the intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. The benefits to individuals from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed the disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. The Bible is the standard for judging the appropriateness of Internet sites.

Des Moines Christian School Internet Rules

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Communications on the network are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Individual users of the DMCS computer network are responsible for their behavior and communications over the networks. Users will comply with school standards and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond the clarification of such standards, the school is responsible for attempting to restrict, monitor, and control the communications of individuals utilizing the network.

Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and to ensure that users are using our system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on the school servers will be private, nor will DMCS be responsible for the loss of data stored on the school's PC or servers.

Parents have the responsibility to communicate acceptable standards to their students. Students have the responsibility to use the Internet appropriately.

The following are not permitted and are considered violations of the network:

- Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
- Using obscene language
- Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another person's password
- Trespassing in another person's folders, work, or files
- Intentionally wasting resources
- Employing the network for commercial purposes
- Using the Internet without the permission of a teacher
- Inappropriate use of e-mail
- Downloading and installing files from the Internet
- Other activities deemed inappropriate
- Online reservations, ordering, and purchasing of items

Violations will result in a loss of independent Internet access as well as other disciplinary or legal action according to school policy.

Date of Adoption: February 26, 2001

Revised: December 18, 2006