

Acceptable Use Policy for Students

The Vermilion Parish School District offers Internet access for student use through the Vermilion Parish School Network (VPS-Net). This document contains information for students and parents about usage and responsibilities

A. Educational Purpose

1. VPS-Net has been established for educational purposes only.
2. VPS-Net has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. Vermilion Parish School District has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material you access or post through the system. You are also expected to follow the rules set forth in the Vermilion Parish Student/Parent Handbook and the law in your use of VPS-Net.
3. You may not use VPS-Net for commercial purposes. This means you may not offer, provide, or purchase products or services through VPS-Net.

B. Student Internet Access

1. Students in grades 5-12 may have access to the Internet and our network resources in their classroom, library, or school computer lab using their own account by agreeing to this acceptable use and signing
2. Students may be provided with individual e-mail accounts at the request of their teacher and with the approval of their parent.
3. You and your parent must sign an Account Agreement to be granted an individual e-mail account on VPS-Net. This Agreement must be renewed on an annual basis. Your parent can withdraw their approval at any time.
4. If approved by your building principal, school sponsored organizations may create a Web page on VPS-Net. All material placed on your Web page must be preapproved in a manner specified by the school. Material placed on your Web page must relate to your school or career preparation activities.
5. You should not attempt to access illegal or inappropriate material by by-passing the VPS-Net filters.

C. Monitoring System

1. All network activity is monitored through the VPS-Net monitoring system. This includes:
 - a. All Internet addresses and searches
 - b. Vermilion Parish email (ex. vrml.k12.la.us)
 - c. Personal email (ex. yahoo, hotmail, aol, etc.)
 - d. Instant Message
 - e. Documents, including attachments
2. The current filtering system generates automatic reports of suspicious and inappropriate activity which is available to school and central office administration.

3. External communication entering our network are also monitored.

D. Unacceptable Uses

The following uses of VPS-Net are considered unacceptable:

1. Personal Safety
 - a. You will not post personal contact information about yourself or other people. Personal contact information includes your address, telephone, school address, work address, etc.
 - b. You will not agree to meet with someone you have met online without your parent's approval. Your parent should accompany you to this meeting.
 - c. You will promptly disclose to your teacher or other school employee any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.
2. Illegal Activities
 - a. You will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to VPS-Net or to any other computer system through VPS-Net or go beyond your authorized access. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or access another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purposes of "browsing".
 - b. You will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means. These actions are illegal.
 - c. You will not use VPS-Net to engage in any other illegal act, such as arranging for a drug sale or the purchase of alcohol, engaging in criminal gang activity, threatening the safety of person, etc.
3. System Security
 - a. You are responsible for your individual account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no conditions should you provide your password to another person.
 - b. You will immediately notify a teacher or other school personnel if you have identified a possible security problem. Do not go looking for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.
4. Inappropriate Language
 - a. Restrictions against Inappropriate Language apply to public messages, private messages, and material posted on Web pages.
 - b. You will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language.
 - c. You will not engage in personal attacks, including prejudicial or discriminatory attacks, post false or defamatory information, or repost a message that was sent to you privately without permission of the person who sent you the message.

- d. You will not harass another person. If you are told by a person to stop sending them messages, you must stop.
- 5. Respecting Resource Limits.
 - a. You will use the system only for educational and career development activities and limited, high-quality, self-discovery activities.
 - b. You will not download large files or use streaming music/video unless directed by the teacher.
 - c. You will not post chain letters or engage in "spamming".
 - d. You will check your e-mail frequently, delete unwanted messages promptly, and stay within your e-mail quota.
 - e. You will subscribe only to high quality discussion group maillists that are relevant to your education or career development.
- 6. Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement
 - a. You will not plagiarize works that you find on the Internet.
 - b. You will respect the rights of copyright owners. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, you should follow the expressed requirements. If you are unsure whether or not you can use a work, you should request permission from the copyright owner. Copyright law can be very confusing. If you have questions ask your teacher or librarian.
- 7. Inappropriate Access to Material
 - a. You will not use VPS-Net to attempt to access material that is inappropriate.
 - b. If you mistakenly access inappropriate information, you should immediately tell your teacher or another District employee * (or disclose this access in the manner specified by your school). This will protect you against a claim that you have intentionally violated this Policy.

E. Your Rights

- 1. Free Speech
 - a. Your right to free speech applies also to your communication on the Internet. The VPS-Net is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the District may restrict your speech for valid educational reasons. The District will not restrict your speech on the basis of a disagreement with the opinions you are expressing.
- 2. Search and Seizure.
 - a. You should expect only limited privacy in the contents of your personal files on the District system. The situation is similar to the rights you have in the privacy of your locker.
 - b. Routine maintenance and monitoring of VPS-Net may lead to discovery that the you have violated this Policy, the Vermilion Parish Student/Parish Handbook, or the law.
 - c. An individual search will be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that you have violated this Policy, the Vermilion Parish Student/Parish

Handbook, or the law. The investigation will be reasonable and related to the suspected violation.

- d. Your parents have the right at any time to request to see the contents of your e-mail files.
3. Due Process
- a. The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted through VPS-Net.
 - b. In the event there is a possible violation in the use of the VPS-Net the following consequences may include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. Loss of internet, email, and network privileges
 - 2. Parent notification
 - 3. PBS procedures of the school

F. Limitation of Liability

The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by or through the District system will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage you may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through or stored on the system. The District will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.