

RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY

Our students use technology to learn. Technology is essential to facilitate the creative problem solving, information fluency, and collaboration that we see in today's democratic societies. While we want our students to be active contributors in our connected world, we also want them to act safely, legally and responsibly. This Responsible Use Policy (RUP) supports our vision of technology use and instills in our students a strong sense of digital citizenship.

How We Use Technology

We use technology to develop in our students the literacy skills they need to contribute in a connected world. We use technology to facilitate creativity and innovation. We use technology to support communication and collaboration. We use technology to extend research and information fluency. We develop in our students a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts. We believe technology can be transformative and we encourage students to use technology to do what they could not otherwise do. We create a safe online environment for everyone. Filtering software keeps most unwanted sites off our computers. In addition, adults supervise our students' computer activities at school. Our goal with students is to address the standards laid out by the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE). These standards are available on the Prairie South School Division website at: <http://www.prairiesouth.ca/component/content/article/221-digital-learning/507-ste.html>.

Our Hardware and Software

Our students can access the Internet via both wired (all schools) and wireless connections (most schools). Digital projectors and interactive whiteboards which facilitate group viewing and discussions are found in many of our elementary and secondary schools. Elementary and secondary students each have access to a standard suite of software to support their learning needs. In all schools that have wireless access, students are allowed to bring their own devices. These devices generally have internet access but may not have direct access to our internal network. The use of laptops and mobile devices continues to emerge and we are working towards effectively managing, supporting and utilizing a variety of technologies in our schools. Each student, from K -12 has a student email account that supports curriculum activities.

Being a Digital Citizen

We strive to show students the safe, legal and responsible use of information and technology. We embrace the following conditions or facets of being a digital citizen.

- **Respect Yourself.** I will select online names that are appropriate. I will consider the information and images that I post online.
- **Protect Yourself.** I will not publish my personal details or any other person's, contact details or a schedule of activities. I will check with my teacher before registering at any website.
- **Respect Others.** I will not use technologies to bully, harass or tease other people.

- **Protect Others.** I will protect others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications.
- **Respect Intellectual Property.** I will suitably cite any and all use of websites, books, media, etc.
- **Protect Intellectual Property.** I will request to use the software and media others produce.

Consequences for Violations

I understand and will follow this Responsible Use Policy. If I break this agreement, the consequences could include limited or suspended access to school technology and/or disciplinary action. In some cases where property or networks are damaged or compromised, financial compensation may be required. I also understand that my school network and e-mail accounts are owned by Prairie South School Division and are not private. Prairie South and their teachers have the right to access my information at anytime.

Student's Name (please print)

Student's Signature

Date

Anticipated Graduation Year from this school

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Responsible Use Policy. I understand that technology is provided for educational purposes in keeping with the academic goals of Prairie South School Division, and that student use for any other purpose is inappropriate. I recognize it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all controversial materials, and I will not hold the school responsible for materials acquired on the school network. I understand that children's computer activities at home should be supervised as they can affect the academic environment at school.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date