

MCPS DIPLOMA Parent Agreement

Parents Guide to Student Use of Technology

Cyber safety is an important parent-child discussion to revisit frequently, from elementary school through high school. Experts warn that children are most vulnerable to online dangers while in their own home. The following suggestions are drawn from a wide variety of professional sources that may aid you in effectively guiding your child's use of the Lenovo Laptop and other technology devices.

In accordance with the District's Acceptable Use Policy, outside of school, parents bear responsibility for the same guidance of Internet use as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, radio, movies and other possibly offensive media. Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's use of the District's educational technologies, including school-issued email accounts and the Internet if the student is accessing the District's electronic technologies from home or through other remote location(s).

_____ (pi) _____ (si)

Filter Access

Filtering software is built into the Lenovo Laptop. Many, but not all potential dangers are filtered and blocked on the school's wireless network so students can't access them. Please keep in mind that no filtering software is perfect, and that students can sometimes bypass these systems. Children shouldn't have unrestricted access to inappropriate sites off campus.

_____ (pi) _____ (si)

Set Expectations

Regularly share your expectations with your child about accessing only appropriate sites and content, as well as being a good person when online (even when parents aren't watching). Outside of school, it is likely that your child has already been confronted with multiple opportunities to access content that parents wouldn't approve, such as inappropriate pictures, hate sites, celebrity gossip, reality tv personal blogs and more, all of which may influence your teen's beliefs, values and behavior.

Understand that your teen's use of many technologies (such as iPods, video game systems, and cell phones) likely gives your teen the ability to connect to unfiltered public wireless networks (such as in a library or coffee shop, by picking up a neighbor's wireless signal, or connecting to the Internet through a cell service). Therefore, it is important to maintain regular, open dialogue about Internet use and access. Discuss your expectation for appropriate use and behavior.

_____ (pi) _____ (si)

Monitor & Limit Screen Time

Experts suggest having teens surf the Internet in a central place at home, such as the kitchen or family room, rather than away from adult supervision or behind a closed door. Know what your child is doing with technology and how his or her time is being spent. Technology can be a great tool and resource, but also has the potential to be a big distractor. Help your child learn to focus on completing tasks or assignments first before spending time on games, shopping and social networking. Teaching today's children how to manage multiple sources of information and potential distractions is a critical life skill, one best learned before heading off to college or the workplace.

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Put the Lenovo Laptop to bed, but not in the bedroom

Parenting experts suggest parking all technology devices, from cell phones to Lenovo Laptops, in a common family room overnight to discourage late night, unmonitored use and sleep disruption. Don't allow your teen to sleep with the Lenovo Laptop, laptop or cell phone. Remember to model appropriate use and balance of technology in your own life, too!

_____ (pi) _____ (si)

Here are some additional things to review with your child:

- Anything they do or post online creates a digital record, often called a "Cyber Footprint." Nothing online is totally private, even if it is intended to be. Once digitized, it can be saved, sent and reposted elsewhere.
- A good rule of thumb: If you don't want a parent, teacher, principal, future employer or college admissions office to know something, don't post it online. Set up some sort of test question to frequently ask your child, such as "Would Grandma approve?"
- "Friends" aren't always who they say they are; inappropriate adults pretend to be kids online. Encourage your teen to only be friends online with friends they know in person. Never give access to personal information, such as a Facebook profile, to people met online.
- Never post personally identifiable information online. This includes: full name, address, phone number, email, where you are meeting friends or where you hang out. Discuss with your teen how easy it is for someone to find you based on what you post online.
- Regularly check your teen's privacy settings on all commonly used sites and networks. Ignoring privacy settings on sites like Facebook means your teen's photos, contact information, interests, and possibly even cell phone GPS location could be shared with more than a half-billion people.
- Cyberbullying (threatening or harassing another individual through technology) is a growing concern for today's youth. It takes many forms, such as forwarding a private email, photo, or text message for others to see, starting a rumor, or sending a threatening or aggressive message, often anonymously. Talk with your teen about not partaking in this behavior and encourage her/him to report

incidents of cyberbullying to an adult and to follow MCPS Board policy 6.304 and 6.305.

- The MCPS DIPLOMA computers, as well as all hardware, software, and data belong to the Maury County Public Schools. This means that any picture, document, or other file saved on the computer, regardless of the source, belong to the school system. As such, these computers and everything contained within them are subject to search and seizure at all times and without prior notice. The computers and the information contained within may be inspected by representatives of the school system and/or law enforcement at any time as allowed by law. Do not store personal items on these systems.

_____ (pi) _____ (si)

Parent/Guardian's Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

School: _____

Grade Level: _____