

Pataula Charter Academy

Student Technology Acceptable Use Policy

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for students on the appropriate and ethical use of telecommunications technologies at Pataula Charter Academy. These guidelines apply to all telephone, video, radio, computer network, and internet uses.

Policy Statement: Pataula Charter Academy (PCA) recognizes that providing technology resources and the internet for educational purposes can provide tremendous opportunities for student achievement. PCA also recognizes that such resources also come with a degree of risk that the users may have exposure to certain materials that are inappropriate. As such PCA will take all appropriate measures to provide students with the understanding and skills necessary to use the technology and internet resources appropriately and in ways that meet educational needs and personal safety.

Internet and Technology Safety

PCA will comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) by installing and operating appropriate filtering software to limit access to materials that are obscene, harmful to children, or otherwise inappropriate.

Students must NEVER give out personal or family information such as phone numbers, credit card numbers, or home addresses.

Students must NEVER arrange for a face to face meeting with a stranger and NEVER respond to abusive or suggestive messages. Students must report all such instances immediately to a teacher or administrator.

No technology is guaranteed to be error free or 100% dependable, nor is it safe when used irresponsibly. Among other matters, PCA is not liable or responsible for:

1. Any information that may be lost, damaged, or unavailable due to technical, or other, difficulties;
2. The accuracy or suitability of any information that is retrieved through technology; or
3. Breaches of confidentiality.

Privileges and Responsibilities

The use of PCA's technological resources and internet is a privilege and not a right. Students may access technology only for educational purposes, and must conduct themselves accordingly by exercising good judgment and complying with this policy. Students are responsible for their behavior and communications while using PCA's network and technology resources.

Student users of technology shall:

1. Use or access PCA technology resources and internet only for the purposes of research, education, and school related business and operations.
2. Be responsible at all times for the proper use of technology, including proper use of access privileges, complying with all required system security identification codes, and not sharing any codes or passwords.
3. Respect the privacy rights of others.
4. Use appropriate language and adhere to all standards of appropriate behavior when using PCA technology resources. (i.e. no swearing, no using vulgarities, and no use of any other inappropriate or demeaning language.)
5. Students must properly document all materials obtained through research on the telecommunications networks and then used in academic work to ensure that there shall be NO copyright violations.
6. Understand that they are responsible for ALL actions and materials posted from their accounts including all telecommunications technologies that are made available to students from outside of the school as well as when using such technologies off-campus.
7. Comply with all software licensing agreements.

8. Make all reasonable effort to maintain the integrity of technological resources from physical abuse or viruses.

Unacceptable Uses of Technology include, but are not limited to:

1. Any and all illegal purposes, including but not limited to, violating any State, Federal, or International law.
2. Any and all obscene or inappropriate purposes, including but not limited to, retrieving, viewing, or distributing explicit material.
3. Any use of profanity or language that is offensive or threatening.
4. Any and all discriminatory purposes, including harassment and bullying of individuals based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability, among others.
5. Soliciting or distributing information with the intent to incite violence, cause personal harm, damage a person's character, or to harass another individual.
6. Plagiarism.
7. Product advertisement.
8. Political advocacy.
9. Obtaining financial gain or transacting any business or commercial activities.
10. Sending pseudonym or anonymous messages.
11. Joining Chats without a teacher's permission as part of a legitimate class activity.
12. Allowing others to use technology resources without authorization, including students whose access privileges have been suspended or revoked.
13. Engaging in hacking of any kind, including but not limited to, attempting to gain or gaining unauthorized access to the accounts or files of another user.
14. In any way harming or destroying the work of another user.
15. Disrupting the use of others by, including but not limited to, knowingly downloading, spreading, or creating computer viruses, or installing unauthorized software.
16. Knowingly wasting technology resources.
17. Physical abuse of the equipment.
18. Any and all other uses that would otherwise violate the PCA Student Code of Conduct

Technology and Internet Use Agreement

PCA is pleased to offer our students access to technological resources for educational purposes. To support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not their child may have access to this resource, no child will be allowed to utilize PCA's technology resources or to access the Internet unless all parties commit to comply with this policy by completing the School Internet Use Agreement.

Students must be aware that PCA technological resources and networks, including all voice, video, and data lines, are the property of PCA and not guaranteed to be private. PCA will, to the extent possible, respect the privacy of all account holders on the network. However, PCA is responsible for investigating possible violations and for enforcing the rules governing the network, and PCA reserves the right to monitor any information stored or transmitted over PCA's network.

Students must be aware that any violation of this policy, or any administrative regulations and guidelines governing the use of PCA technology resources, will result in disciplinary action.

Students must be aware that any violation of local, state, or federal law may be subject students to prosecution by appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Amended: 3/20/2017