



## **STUDENT TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

*Board Approved 2/8/2017*

The Board of Trustees of Golden Valley Charter School (GVCS or Charter School), adopts this Student Use of Technology Policy and Acceptable Use Agreement.

New technologies are modifying the way in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred. Those changes also alter instruction and student learning. GVCS offers students access to technologies that may include Internet access, electronic mail, and equipment, such as computers, tablets, or other multimedia hardware. GVCS intends that technological resources, including equipment, provided by the school be used in a safe, responsible, and proper manner in support of the instructional program and for the advancement of student learning.

### **Educational Purpose**

Use of Charter School equipment and access to the Internet via Charter School equipment and resource networks is intended to serve and pursue educational goals and purposes. Student use of the Internet is therefore limited to only those activities that further or enhance the delivery of education. Students have a duty to use Charter School resources only in a manner specified in the Policy.

**“Educational purpose”** means classroom activities, research in academic subjects, career or professional development activities, Charter School approved personal research activities, or other purposes as defined by GVCS from time to time.

**“Inappropriate use”** means a use that is inconsistent with an educational purpose or that is in clear violation of this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement.

### **Notice and Use**

GVCS shall notify students and parents/guardians about authorized uses of school computers, user obligations and responsibilities, and consequences for unauthorized use and/or unlawful activities.

Before a student is authorized to use GVCS's technological resources, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the Acceptable Use Agreement specifying user obligations and responsibilities. In that agreement, the student and his/her parent/guardian shall agree not to hold GVCS or any Charter School staff responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence. They shall also agree to indemnify and hold harmless GVCS and Charter School personnel for any damages or costs incurred.



## **Safety**

GVCS shall ensure that all Charter School computers with Internet access have a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access to websites that have no educational purpose and/or contain visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or that are harmful to minors. While GVCS is able exercise reasonable control over content created and purchased by GVCS, it has limited control over content accessed via the internet and no filtering system is 100% effective. Neither GVCS nor its staff shall be responsible for the failure of any technology protection measures, violations of copyright restrictions, or user mistakes or negligence.

To reinforce these measures, the Executive Director or designee shall implement rules and procedures designed to restrict students' access to harmful or inappropriate matter on the Internet and to ensure that students do not engage in unauthorized or unlawful online activities. Staff shall supervise students while they are using online services and may have teacher aides, student aides, and volunteers assist in this supervision.

The Executive Director or designee also shall establish regulations to address the safety and security of students and student information when using email, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communication.

GVCS through its Executive Director and/or teaching staff shall provide age-appropriate instruction regarding safe and appropriate behavior on social networking sites, chat rooms, and other Internet services. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to, maintaining the student's online reputation and ensuring their personal safety by keeping their personal information private, the dangers of posting personal information online, misrepresentation by online predators, how to report inappropriate or offensive content or threats, behaviors that constitute cyberbullying, and how to respond when subjected to cyberbullying. Students are expected to follow safe practices when using Charter School technology.

Students shall not use the Internet to perform any illegal act or to help others perform illegal acts. Illegal acts include, but are not limited to, any activities in violation of local, state, and federal law and/or accessing information designed to further criminal or dangerous activities. Such information includes, but is not limited to, information that if acted upon could cause damage, present a danger, or cause disruption to GVCS, other students, or the community. Damaging, debilitating or disabling computers, computer networks or systems through the intentional or overuse of electronic distribution or the spreading of computer viruses or other harmful programs shall be prohibited. Any unauthorized online access to other computers by means of hacking into other computers, downloading hacker tools such as port scanners and password crackers designed to evade restrictions shall also be strictly prohibited.



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Student use of Charter School computers to access social networking sites is not prohibited, but access is limited to educational purposes only. To the extent possible, the Director or designee shall block access to such sites on Charter School computers with Internet access.

The Director or designee shall oversee the maintenance of GVCS's technological resources and may establish guidelines and limits on their use.

All employees shall receive a copy of this policy and the accompanying Acceptable Use Agreement describing expectations for appropriate use of the system and shall also be provided with information about the role of staff in supervising student use of technological resources. All employees shall comply with this policy and the Acceptable Use Agreement, in addition to any separate policies governing employee use of technology.

Student use of school computers, networks, and Internet services is a privilege, not a right. Compliance with GVCS's policies and rules concerning computer use is mandatory. Students who violate these policies and rules may have their computer privileges limited and may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion per school policy.