



Computer/Online Services

(Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)

Technology can greatly enhance the instructional program, as well as the efficiency of the Ohio Virtual Academy, hereon known as "OHVA". OHVA has made arrangements with K12 Inc. and/or its affiliates ("K12") to permit each student to use certain computer equipment, software, and related instructional books and materials ("Instructional Property") to facilitate the student's education while enrolled in the school.

Computers and use of the OHVA's online services support learning and enhance instruction, as well as assist in administration. For purposes of this document, computers include OHVA/K12-owned desktop computers, laptops, tablets and other mobile computing devices.

All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to the guidelines below will result in the revocation of the user's access privilege. Unacceptable uses of the computer/network include but are not limited to:

1. violating the conditions of State and Federal law dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information;
2. using profanity, obscenity or other language that may be offensive to another user or intended to harass, intimidate or bully other users;
3. accessing personal social networking websites for noneducational purposes;
4. reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent;
5. copying commercial software and/or other material in violation of copyright law;
6. using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
7. "hacking" or gaining unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or attempting to gain such unauthorized access;
8. accessing and/or viewing inappropriate material and
9. downloading of freeware or shareware programs.

Because access to online services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users (and parents of users who are under 18 years old) must understand that OHVA cannot control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes offensive.

The Board/OHVA does not condone the use of such materials. Employees, students and parents of students must be aware that the privileges to access online services are withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established. A user's agreement is signed to indicate the user's acknowledgment of the risks and regulations for computer/online services use. The OHVA/K12 has implemented technology-blocking measures that protect against access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to the use of computers by minors, harmful to minors. K12's filtering criteria addresses the following general topics in addition to sexual material: alcohol, drugs, gambling, hate/discrimination, murder/suicide, profanity, cheating, tasteless/gross, tobacco, violence and weapons. OHVA/K12 has also purchased monitoring devices, which maintain a running log of internet activity, recording which sites a particular user has visited.

"Harmful to minors" is defined as any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

1. taken as a whole and with respect to minors appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
2. depicts, describes or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts or a lewd exhibition of genitals and
3. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors.

OHVA will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. The Superintendent/designee will develop a program to educate students on these issues.

Annually, a student who wishes to have computer network and online services access during the school year must read the acceptable use and Internet safety policy and submit a properly signed agreement form. Students are asked to sign a new agreement each year after reviewing the policies and regulations of OHVA. OHVA reserves the right to amend policies and regulations as necessary throughout the school year. Users are notified of the updated policies and regulations and must comply with the updated requirements. These policies and regulations also apply to use of OHVA-owned devices, or accessing of OHVA intranet and software programs off OHVA property. All users using platforms established for e-learning regardless of whether the student or employee is using a personal or OHVA provided device must be used in accordance with the standards for conduct outlined in this policy and the accompanying regulation. Users in violation of this policy or the accompanying regulation may be subject to discipline.