

Responsible Use of Technology at Central Valley Christian School

revised August, 2008

"Grateful for the advances in science and technology, we make careful use of their products, on guard against idolatry and harmful research, and careful to use them in ways that answer to God's demands to love our neighbor and to care for the earth and its creatures." (Paragraph 52, Our World Belongs to God, CRC Publications, 1988.)

The use of computing resources at CVC is a privilege, not a right. Violating the guidelines set out in this policy will result in disciplinary actions dependent on the severity of the violation. Consequences may include temporary or indefinite loss of access to computing resources, suspension, fines, or expulsion.

Central Valley Christian School expects users of technology to act as responsible stewards of the resources entrusted to them. To be a responsible steward is to show:

- Respect for others' need for access to technology
- Respect for others' values and feelings
- Respect for others' property
- Respect for others' privacy
- Respect for authority

Any user of the technology resources available at CVC should comply with the guidelines listed above. The following further defines the above points, but it is important to note that it does not limit the scope of this policy to what is described below.

Respect for others' need for access to technology

Students should show respect for fellow students' access to the shared resources that CVC offers. This means that computers should first be used for work pertaining to academic development. Research, assignments, correspondence with teachers, or accessing class requirements via RenWeb all fall under this category. Secondary to academic activities are other school related activities such as student leadership preparation or college searching. Activities not directly related to school use take lowest priority, and should not take place during school hours without express permission from a supervisor.

Showing respect for others' use of technology also includes the appropriate use of software on the school's computers. Downloading, installing, or executing programs that are not already installed on a CVC computer are not allowed. The use, distribution, or ownership of any sort of destructive program (virus, trojan, worm, spyware, etc.) is also unacceptable.

Respect for others' values and feelings

As young and developing Christians and as members of the body of Christ, CVC students are expected to behave in a manner consistent with Biblical standards for Christian conduct. All words, actions, and activities should conform to Biblical Guidelines and through that glorify our heavenly Father. "Say those things that are helpful for building others up according to their needs. Be imitators of God and live a life of love just as Christ loved us." (Eph 4:29, 5:1)

-Excerpt from the CVC Conduct Policy, Student Handbook 2008

Just as students should show respect for others in their words, actions, and activities, so should that apply to electronic communication as well. As ambassadors of both CVC and our Lord, students should maintain a level of personal integrity that is a reflection of Christ. Any sort of degrading communication is unacceptable, whether by email, social networking sites, the display or distribution of inappropriate material, or otherwise.

Respect for others' property

The respect for others' property refers to the tangible and intellectual property of both the School and other people. Computer hardware and peripherals owned by the school should be treated with care, and printing resources provided by the school should not be used frivolously.

In addition to tangible property, students should respect the intellectual property of others. Unauthorized access to intellectual property owned by either another individual or CVC, or allowing unauthorized access to said property is a breach in this agreement. This includes copying of copyrighted software to or from a CVC computer.

Respect for others' privacy

Privacy in the digital age is becoming something more difficult to maintain, and students at CVC must strive to maintain the highest level of privacy they can. Information sent over the internet is subject to tampering by others. As such, students should not jeopardize their own privacy or the privacy of others by transmitting personal information over the internet. Gaining unauthorized access to others' files, snooping, or looking for the sake of looking is also an infringement on the privacy of others.

Respect for authority

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

- Romans 13:1

Students are subject to the authority of CVC employees, and should not disrespect their instructor by using computing resources for non-academic activities. Students should respect the task at hand and obey their superiors' instructions.

Certain measures have been put in place as an authoritative control for accidental or intentional breaches in security or policy. Any attempt to bypass, disable, or otherwise tamper with any preventative software is unacceptable. To ensure that technology and communications systems are being used for proper educational purposes, CVC reserves the rights to monitor, access, retrieve, read, and disclose all data, messages, activity, and other information stored on any and all school systems at any time. By using the school's technology and communications systems, students consent to monitoring and disclosure of their use and activity.

As a user of the Central Valley Christian School computer network, I agree to comply with the standards of respect that have been laid out in this policy.

Student Signature_____

Printed Name_____

Date_____

As the parent or legal guardian of the minor student signing above, I agree to support the officials of CVC in the enforcement of this policy.

Parent's Signature_____

Printed Name_____

Date_____