

Responsible Use of Electronic Media for Students

Vidalia City Schools (VCS) recognizes that the use of technology is prevalent in society. Students and staff have access to the Internet, cell phones, games, and a variety of personal technology devices. Students and staff utilize social media websites and applications as well as a variety of other digital resources that allow them to interact, share, create and innovate. Staff members utilize these same resources as a means to effectively engage students, motivate student learning, and collaborate with colleagues.

When using VCS technology or network access, students are expected to follow the Student Conduct Behavior Code, including respecting others' privacy. Online student accounts to be used for legitimate educational purposes will be subject to monitoring and review, including review of text and attachments that are related to that student or students. At NO TIME should a student consider VCS email (K-12), networked applications, or account or technology access private or confidential in any way.

While the school district does maintain Internet filters, there may be times when a student may accidentally or purposefully discover inappropriate materials online. VCS DOES NOT CONDONE use of such materials. Inappropriate use of VCS technology or network access is a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code.

Access is a privilege, not a right, and all students are expected to treat this learning tool with respect. VCS technology, network access, and electronic resources must not be used to:

- Harm other people.
- Interfere with other people's work.
- Steal property.
- Gain unauthorized access to other people's files or programs.
- Gain unauthorized access to online resources, including using someone else's password.
- Make changes to the hardware or software configuration of any machine, including installing or deleting any software.
- Improperly use the network, including introducing software viruses and/or bypassing local school or office security policies.
- Steal or damage data and/or computers and network equipment.
- Access, upload, download, and/or distribute pornographic, hate oriented, profane, obscene, or sexually explicit material.

Failure to follow these guidelines can violate the Official Code of Georgia, O.C.G.A., Codes 16-9-90, 16-9-91, 16-9-93, and 16-9-93.1 as well as Title XVII of United States Public Law 106-554, known as the Children's Internet Protection Act. Such use can also lead to disciplinary actions, up to and including loss of access to VCS technology resources and further disciplinary actions as defined by existing VCS policies. Such disciplinary actions may include confiscation of technology being used inappropriately if an incident occurs.

Supplemental Technology and Student Email

VCS provides access to Google G Suite for Education and Microsoft Office 365 and other Online Web services including but not limited to Zoom as supplemental resources to the VCS adopted Learning Management System for local schools to use if they wish. VCS will allow the use and issue student email (Google Gmail) accounts to students for use internal to VCS only. Students can access the email from any device via the Student Portal.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Vidalia City Schools is a "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) district in grades 9-12. This program is designed to support teaching and learning through safe, efficient, and monitored wireless access. If your child's school or class is participating in BYOD, then students are allowed to bring mobile devices with the expectation they will be used as a supplemental instructional

resource. The BYOD access may be limited based on the school's identification of instructional need.

To participate in the use of BYOD resources, all users must agree to use the school network when available, and not personal mobile data service providers, on their devices. Using the school network ensures a filtered, appropriate solution that is optimized for BYOD use. VCS is not responsible for any damages, fees, lost functionality, support, or costs that may be the result of students or staff members participating in BYOD. This is a voluntary program, and students will not be penalized if they do not participate. Whether the device is owned by a parent, student, staff member, or school, the user of the device is responsible for protecting the device at school, on the bus, or at school functions.

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

COPPA applies to operators of commercial websites and online services and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under the age of 13. COPPA allows the school to act as the parent's agent and consent to the collection of a student's information on the parent's behalf within the educational context— where an operator collects personal information from students for the use and benefit of the school, and for no other commercial purpose. By signing the response form, parents grant consent for Vidalia City Schools, and Vidalia City Schools' employees, to act as the parent's agent in providing consent for the collection of student information within the educational context.

Response Form (Required)

Student:

I have received a copy of the Vidalia City Schools information regarding responsible use of electronic media for instructional purposes whether in class or as a virtual student. I understand that all Annual Notices to parents, including Parents Right to Know, FERPA, and COPPA are located in the student handbook that can be found on each school's website. I understand my rights and responsibilities as student enrolled in the Vidalia City School System and consent to the terms found within the handbook.

Student Name	School	Date
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Parent:

I understand the handbook is located on the school website that my child attends. I have reviewed the contents of the handbook with my child and consent to the terms regarding responsible use of electronic media for instructional purposes whether in class or as a virtual student. I understand that all Annual Notices to parents, including Parents Right to Know, FERPA, and COPPA are located in the student handbook.

Signature of Parent/Guardian	Date
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