

USD # 249 ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY :

The use of the USD # 249 (District) computers, networks, and Internet is a privilege, not a right. It is a general policy that all computers used in the District are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Any violation of District policy or rules may result in disciplinary action, which may include loss of District-provided access to computers, computer networks, and/or the Internet. Disciplinary action will be determined at the building level in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior.

These policies can be found in the student handbook. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved. It is understood that all USD # 249 staff and students will comply with this policy.

The District makes no warranties of any kind, neither expressed nor implied, for the computers, networks, and/or Internet access it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages users suffer, including, but not limited to, loss of data resulting from delays or interruptions in service. The District will not be responsible for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information stored on District storage media such as diskettes, hard drives, or servers; nor for the accuracy, nature, or quality of information gathered through District-provided Internet access. The District will not be responsible for personal property used to access District computers, networks or Internet.

The District's computers, network and Internet accounts are educational tools owned and paid for by the District. The District shall have the right at any time and for any reason to review all files and records on District computers, and the right to periodically monitor, audit or review network, Internet and e-mail use, including the right to review e-mail messages. The use of authorization passwords by students or staff should not be construed as creating a private communication medium, and all such passwords shall be divulged to the District. The use of unauthorized or undisclosed passwords is strictly prohibited. By using the District's computers, students and staff expressly consent to the District's policies.

Even though the District may use technical means to limit Internet access, these limits do not provide a foolproof means for enforcing the provisions of this acceptable use policy. Some material accessible via the Internet may contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Goods and services can be purchased over the Internet that could potentially result in unwanted financial obligations. The District will not be responsible for unauthorized financial obligations incurred by a staff member or student resulting from District-provided access to the Internet. Any such financial obligations are the sole responsibility of the staff member or the student and/or student's parents. Staff and students utilizing District provided computers, networks and Internet are responsible for good behavior on-line and in "electronic" field trips just as they are in a classroom or other area of

the school. With the privilege of using the District computers, networks, and Internet comes certain responsibilities.

Users need to familiarize themselves with these responsibilities. Failure to follow them may result in disciplinary action. These responsibilities include:

1. Using appropriate language. Profanity, obscenity, and abusive, sexually explicit or threatening language will not be tolerated. All users should use language appropriate for school situations as indicated by school codes of conduct;
2. Avoiding offensive or inflammatory communication. Harassing, insulting or attacking others personally is unacceptable;
3. Adhering to the rules of copyright and use of intellectual property of others. Staff and students must respect all copyright issues regarding software, information, and attributions of authorship. The intellectual property of another individual or organization cannot be used without their permission. The law prohibits duplicating software for profit, making multiple copies for use by different users within an organization, and giving an unauthorized copy to another individual.
4. Using the computers, network and Internet only for legal activities. Illegal activities include tampering with computer hardware or software, unauthorized entry into computers, or knowledgeable vandalism or destruction of computer files whether they belong to the District, individuals, or an organization. Such activity is considered a crime under state and federal law;
5. Avoiding the known or inadvertent spread of computer viruses. "Computer viruses" are programs that have been developed as pranks, and can destroy valuable programs and data. Deliberate attempts to degrade or disrupt system performance of the District computers or network or any other computer system or network on the Internet by spreading computer viruses is considered criminal activity under state and federal law;
6. Accepting full responsibility for the use of your account. All violations of this policy that can be traced to an individual account name will be treated as the sole responsibility of the owner of that account. Under no conditions should you give your password to another user;
7. Avoiding the access, upload, download, or distribution of pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material;
8. Avoiding unauthorized commercial use of District computers, networks, or Internet;
9. Not intentionally wasting limited computer, network, or Internet resources.

Parents of students in the Frontenac Public School District shall be provided with a copy of the acceptable use policy.