



Creative Frontiers School, Inc.

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School's Policy Regarding Student Internet Use

This memo is designed to better inform parents about the rules and regulations in regards to the internet use in the computer lab, what students are currently learning about Internet Explorer, and the school's firewall. Computer classes are structured, as all students are supervised on a consistent basis and are learning basic information regarding Microsoft Word and Excel, as well as using Internet Explorer. Grades 2-6 are learning the correct way to type using a program called Mavis Beacon. The classes are goal-oriented, with very little "free" time allotted for casual play and searching.

Computer Lab Rules and Regulations: Students know that one of the rules in the computer lab is that they need to use appropriate language at all times. This includes not only the words that come out of their mouth, but the words that they type into the computer as well! We have discussed that while there are still inappropriate websites they can access (keep in mind - more likely at home rather than school!), they can avoid them by using the firewall in their brain', i.e. making a conscious effort to avoid typing in inappropriate language into the computer. Students are aware that any parent or teacher can look up specific search words and the websites they visit in the browser history, which is yet another incentive for them to avoid inappropriate sites!

What Students Are Learning About Internet Explorer: At the moment, grades K-2 are currently learning how to log on to Internet Explorer, how to manipulate the address bar, how to type in a web address properly, the meaning of `www', and remembering to include all periods and the `.com' at the end of web addresses (it's a lot more complicated for them than it sounds!). Students are also learning about the many uses of the internet, and the appropriate way we search the web and enter in web addresses. The older students are already pretty familiar with these topics, but we do a little refresher now and then when they are not practicing their correct typing form. The entire student body is at least somewhat aware of what a firewall is, what it protects them from, why we have one, and how they can help the effectiveness of the firewall. Proper etiquette, behavior, and respect are consistently stressed and are expected of students at all times.

Firewalls: A firewall is "... a number of security schemes that prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to a computer network or that monitor transfers of information to the network" (<http://dictionary.reference.com>) We have a "Comsifter": an excellent, top-of-the-line (hardware, not software) firewall installed on the entire network at CFS, which prevents students from accessing programs deemed improper for children. It will not allow any inappropriate `pop-ups', and will restrict the viewing of websites with inappropriate language and graphics. If the student refuses to enter in inappropriate language and search terms, we should never have a problem with websites that include adult or violent content. The blocking of websites deemed inappropriate for children is reinforced by the students knowledge of computer rules and expectations, the fact that they are aware that I can find out what they have been searching for and what websites they are visiting, the firewall that CFS has installed on the network, and by my constant supervision of their computer usage during `free time'.

As always, we welcome all questions and concerns that a parent/guardian might have regarding the computer lab and their student's well-being. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's computer teacher or administration regarding any questions and/or feedback.