



Social Media / School Computer / Internet Policy *Grades 3 - 8*

Computer & Internet Use: Computers and the internet are provided here at Redeemer for students to use as tools in the learning process. Students are responsible for good behavior on the school computer network, just as they are in the classroom, in the school hallway or on computers at home. Access to the computers and internet services at RCS is given to students who agree to act in a responsible and ethical manner. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access entails responsibility.

Social Media: We are a society that is reliant on our cell phones, the Internet, and the need to be in constant contact with our family and friends. Our students are no different. The vast majority of our upper grade students has a cell phone and belongs to one or more social media websites. It is our hope that our Redeemer Family is using these avenues of communication in positive ways.

Because of these communication tools, a major issue across our country that our schools are dealing with is Cyber Bullying. It is defined as a student using the Internet, cell phone, or other technology to harass, embarrass, or threaten another student. We pray that this and other inappropriate texts/posts don't happen here at Redeemer. But we want to let families and students know that we will address these incidents if they occur.

“Let the words of my mouth (my text messages and Facebook posts) and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14

Portions of that verse are not in the original translation! However, it is a reminder that what we say or do should always make the Good Lord smile. We are responsible for our words and actions no matter where we are even if we type those words instead of saying them aloud for people to hear. While we at Redeemer will do our best to monitor students' use of technology, we do ask that you set and convey standards at home for your child to follow when using technology.

The following guidelines apply to our Redeemer Family and share how we will handle situations that are not acceptable in His sight.

eREADERS/TABLETS

- ☺ eReaders and tablets will be allowed in grades 3 – 8 to use for reading books as well as writing down assignments during designated school hours. They may not be used in bus line and during Childwatch - our before and after care program.
- ☺ Students are responsible for the safety of these items at school. If your child cannot be responsible with the device, do not allow them to bring it to school.
- ☺ These devices will not be used to take pictures or play games at school.
- ☺ Headphones will not be used in school on these devices.
- ☺ These devices may be used for academic activities as directed by the classroom teachers.

- ☺ If a teacher or supervising adult sees a student using a device in an unacceptable manner (as previously stated), it will be taken and given to the principal.
- ☺ The principal has the right to go through confiscated devices to check for evidence of any inappropriate use of the device at school. Any inappropriate information will be shared with parents.
- ☺ Confiscated devices will only be returned to parents. If they want the principal to keep it... it will be done gladly!

CELL PHONES

- ✔ Cell phones will not be used during the school day. That includes bus line and Childwatch - our before and after care program.
- ✔ If a teacher or supervising adult sees a student using their cell phone, it will be taken and given to the principal.
- ✔ The principal will go through confiscated cell phones to check the messages and phone logs to ensure it has not been used during the school day. Any inappropriate information will be shared with parents.
- ✔ Confiscated cell phones will only be returned to parents. If they want the principal to keep it... it will be done gladly!

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook and other social media sites are not to be accessed by students at anytime using computers owned by Redeemer.
- Always keep in mind that you are representing yourself, your family, your school, and most importantly your Lord when you are posting messages online.
- No inappropriate comments should be made about teachers, parents, or other students of Redeemer. You will be held accountable for your texts/posts.

INAPPROPRIATE TEXTS / POSTS

- Inappropriate texts/posts are determined the same way we treat the words that come out of our mouths. At Redeemer we use three simple questions – Is it True? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind? If you cannot say yes to all three, you've done something wrong.
- Texts/Posts referring to a teacher, parent, or student in our Redeemer Family that are deemed inappropriate need to be shared with the principal.
- The principal will only address instances where there is documented proof of the text/post. It is simple; save it, and show him/her. The principal will not handle situations where there is no evidence of such a text/post.
- No matter when an inappropriate text/post is written about someone in our Redeemer Family, the principal has the right to get involved and give consequences when necessary.

COMPUTER/INTERNET USE

- ☺ The following actions are not allowed.
 1. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
 2. Destroying data of another user.
 3. Violating copyright laws.

4. Employing or using the Internet for commercial uses.
 5. Using computers in such a way that it interferes with the educational process of RCS.
 6. Other violations deemed unacceptable by the general standards of our faith and the policies of our school.
- ☺ In addition to the inappropriate behaviors listed above, also included are these ground rules.
1. Do NOT give out personal information such as your address, telephone number, parents' work address or telephone number, or the name and location of our school without permission.
 2. Do NOT enter chat areas. At some sites there may be an opportunity to enter a chat area. You are NOT to do this.
 3. At some sites, there are questionnaires to fill out. You are NOT to do this without permission from your teacher.
 4. At some sites, there is advertising. There may be order forms to purchase something. You are NOT to fill out any of these forms.
 5. If you arrive at a site that is offensive to Christians, use the back button to leave the site and report it immediately to the teacher.

Those students who violate the above policy may lose the right to use technology and the computers at school for the amount of time deemed appropriate by teacher, principal, and/or school board. In addition, school disciplinary action may be taken including, if necessary, appropriate legal action.

A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Be nosey! Know what is going on in your child's life. Even if they cry and scream, children don't have a right to privacy when it comes to the parent/child relationship. You should know their Facebook password so you can monitor their account. Grab their cell phone once in awhile and check to see if you approve of their text messages. Cell phones and Facebook are a license to sin. It is incredibly easy to text or post something you know you would never say to someone face to face. For a child, this is a temptation that is extremely difficult to overcome. They are going to mess-up. But it is our job as parents to use those incidents as teachable moments to talk about what it means to *live for Christ* and most importantly to *be forgiven by Christ*.

Please sign the form below, detach and return to RCS. Please keep the above policy for your records.



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Student Signature: _____

Grade: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____