

FORSAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Computer Use Contract



2009 - 2010

Forsan I.S.D. Network and Internet?

The Fisd Network is a Local Area Network, which connects the high school and junior high school by high-speed data lines enabling computers to communicate with each other within the school district. E-mail accounts allow users to send messages in a few seconds to each other and keep these messages in mailboxes. Our Fisd Network also contains curriculum, administrative information allowing authorized users immediate access to district information. Fisd Internet address is <http://www.forsan.esc18.net>.

The Internet is a collection of more than 10,000 interconnected computer networks around the world that make it possible to share information almost instantly. The Internet allows almost 2 million computers and 23 million users of those computers to collaborate easily and quickly through electronic mail, discussions, groups, and conferencing. The Net has become a major global infrastructure for education, research, professional learning, public service, and business.

Our Forsan Network is connected to the Internet through a T1 dedicated leased high-speed data line to the Region 18 Service Center.

What are the benefits for Forsan ISD students and teachers having this network?

Classroom resources will be expanded enormously by making information and people from all over the world available to students, teachers and media specialists. It brings instant access to original source material, general information, data, images, and computer software. It makes contact with people possible, bringing into the classroom experts from all over the world, new and old friends, and colleagues. Such access spawns individual and group projects, collaboration, curriculum materials, and idea sharing. As a hands-on classroom tool, networks can motivate students. They encourage the kind of independence and autonomy that many educators agree is important for students to achieve. Because class, race, ability, and disability are removed as communication factors or barriers, the Internet is a natural tool for addressing the needs of all students.

What are some of the risks associated with accessing the Internet?

Like other parts of real life, there are good things and bad things on the Internet. Most people are who they represent, but it is possible to misrepresent oneself. Also, remember that not everything you read on-line may be true. Students need to learn to discriminate between reliable sources of information and those that may be questionable. Most universities have reliable information unless the information is found on a student machine, which will usually have a "people from all over the world avaidisclaimer" attached to it. No one should respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or make you feel uncomfortable. We encourage you to let us know from whom and from where such messages may come, so we may ban them from our link to the Internet. NEVER give out your address or phone number to an unknown Internet user. Students, teachers, and staff are expected to use the Internet for the purpose of educational resources, not game playing or searching for objectionable materials.

Anyone found trying to go to an objectionable site will have his/her privileges lifted.

What are the responsibilities and uses of a password?

Your password enables you to access the Network. It is your way to obtain access to information on line. Should you give your password to someone else, and he abuses the use of your account, you will be held responsible for the wrongdoing and may lose access. Do NOT give your password to anyone else to use. No passwords are meant for multiple users.

What is Netiquette?

Netiquette is a term for correct and best use of electronic communications. They include the following suggestions:

Keep paragraphs and messages short and to the point. Focus on one subject per E-mail message and always include a pertinent subject title for the message. That way the user can locate the message quickly.

Don't use academic networks for commercial or proprietary work. Include your name, position, affiliation, and Internet address at the bottom of any E-mail message.

Capitalize words only to highlight an important point or to distinguish a title or heading. *Asterisks* around a word can also be used to make a stronger point. Capitalizing entire words that are not titles is generally termed as SHOUTING!

Limit line length and avoid control characters.

Follow chain of command procedures for corresponding with superiors. For example, don't send a complaint via E-mail directly to the "top" just because you can. Be professional and careful in what you say about others. E-mail is easily forwarded.

Cite all quotes, references, and sources and respect copyright and license agreements. It is considered rude to forward personal E-mail to mailing lists or Usenet without the original author's permission.

Be careful when using sarcasm or humor. Without face to face communication, your joke may be viewed as criticism.

Check E-mail daily and delete unwanted messages as they take disk space. Your files are accessible by persons with system privileges, so do not maintain anything private in your disk storage area on the server.

What is the responsibility of the Teacher?

Every student needs to be briefed by a teacher on the rules of the district regarding Internet and network use. Teachers should encourage students to use these vast resources, but must also caution them against misuse and the fact that they may lose the privilege if not used correctly. It is the teacher's responsibility to keep all students from using the teacher's computer. Teachers are to report to the office any student working on a teacher's computer. Teachers are expected to keep an eye on the use of the Internet in their own classrooms and report misuse to the district system administrator, who will take appropriate action. (A warning or termination of account.) Forsan wants its students to have the vast amount of educational resources available, but must also monitor itself to see that the machines are used for appropriate educational research. Teachers are also expected to serve as models of correct use in their own accounts.

What is appropriate use of the FISD Network via a classroom computer?

FISD network is meant to be used for access to district information by administrators, access to the district library system, E-mail access, and access to thousands of sites worldwide with instructional educational materials. Students and teachers are encouraged to share especially good sources of educational materials, or even provide access to their own materials through a homepage.

What are inappropriate uses of the FISD Network?

Access to the Forsan computer systems is considered a privilege and not a right.

This privilege can be denied to anyone who does the following:

Damages or vandalizes any computer equipment.

Uses a teacher's computer. Teachers' computers are to be used by Forsan faculty only.

Copies files into the computer system from a computer disk that is not owned by the school. (No files are to be transferred from a floppy disk to a Forsan computer without the authorization of the teacher, and the computer disk must be one that is maintained and used in that classroom. It can not be taken off campus and then be used in a Forsan computer system.)

Students **may not** possess or **use** personally-owned laptop computers on a Forsan ISD campus.

Surfing the net. Students may only access sites with teacher permission during the class period.

Uses the net to access materials that are considered pornographic or inappropriate for educational purposes.

Uses the net for advertising, soliciting, or harassment of any kind.

Uses the net to try to access data that is protected and not intended for use.

Uses someone else's account or password at any time.

Violates any federal or state laws regarding network access.

Tries in any way to interfere with the computer systems here at Forsan, or anywhere, in an effort to obtain private information, have the computer malfunction, or destroy data.

Violates any copyright laws by passing licensed software across the network.

Accessing web sites without teacher permission. This includes My Space, You Tube, music sites, and other such student websites.

Downloading files without teacher permission.

What steps will be taken for inappropriate use?

It is the intention of the Forsan School Board to provide a free and open system to the Forsan Network users. However, if serious misuse is reported, users may be banned from using the Network and subject to Student Code of Conduct. Personally-owned laptops may not be possessed or used by students on campus at any time. Failure by a student or a user designated by said student to adhere to this rule may result in confiscation of a personally-owned laptop or banning of the owner student's right to use other campus computers. A database of registered users and banned users will be maintained by the district, and monthly lists will be supplied to the teachers. Every attempt will be made to warn students and teachers of violations before removing access.

Whose responsibility is it to see that the Fisd Network is used correctly?

Primary responsibility for correct student use lies with the teacher who is supervising the classroom. It is the teacher who should set the rules and see that they are enforced. The system administrator will also review logs of staff and student use on a regular basis and take action on any attempts at violating the above rules and regulations.