

## **COMPUTER NETWORK**

### **Acceptable Use Policy**

Little Rock Christian Academy recognizes that as technologies affect the manner in which information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning.

Telecommunications, electronic information services and networked services significantly alter the information landscape by opening schools, classrooms and library media centers to a broader array of resources. The school generally supports access by students and teachers to rich information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources.

In making decisions regarding student and employee access to telecommunications and networked information resources, Little Rock Christian Academy considers its own stated educational mission, goals and objectives. This requires that all instructional and library media materials support and enrich the curriculum and represent Christ-like values while taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of the students. Telecommunications, including video, audio and text services, because they may be connected to any publicly available source in the world, will open classrooms to electronic information resources which may not have been specifically chosen or previewed for use by students of various ages.

In particular, the Internet is a collection of interconnected computer networks around the world that makes it possible to share information almost instantly. The networks are owned by countless commercial, research, governmental and educational organizations. The Internet expands classroom and library media center resources by making information, images and even computer software from places otherwise impossible to reach available to students, teachers, librarians and media specialists. Access to these resources can yield individual and group projects, collaboration, curriculum materials and idea sharing. Internet access also makes contact with people all over the world, bringing into the classroom experts in every content area.

**While Little Rock Christian will make concerted effort to filter and supervise online access for appropriate content, methods are far from foolproof and responsibility for acceptable use remains with the student or other user.**

The following principles guide access to networked information resources:

1. **Responsibility:** Access is a privilege, not a right. Access entails responsibility.
  - Little Rock Christian expects that staff will integrate thoughtful use of networked information resources throughout the curriculum.
  - User access from Little Rock Christian to telecommunications and networked information resources shall follow guidelines developed for the selection of appropriate instructional materials as decided upon by the instructional guidelines set forth in the various disciplines.
  - Since access could extend beyond evaluated or previewed resources, the staff will supervise and provide developmentally appropriate guidance and

instruction to students in the appropriate and effective use of such resources.

- Users are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks, just as in classrooms and other areas of the school. Communications on networks are often public in nature.
  - Outside of school, families are responsible for setting and conveying the same standards that their children exercise in the use of television, telephones, radio, movies and other media to the use of telecommunications and networked information resources. Therefore, Little Rock Christian supports and respects each family's decision whether or not to allow student access to the networked resources provided by the school.
  - The educational value of student networked information resources access is the joint responsibility of students, parents, and employees of the school.
2. **Sanctions:** Disciplinary action related to user access to electronic resources may be determined at the building and/or classroom level in accordance with existing practice regarding inappropriate language or behavior, as stated in policies and guidelines contained in the school handbook
- Violations of the Little Rock Christian acceptable use policies may result in a loss of access to electronic resources.
  - Additional sanctions for inappropriate behavior and communication shall be governed by the school administration.
  - When appropriate, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

*Little Rock Christian Academy would like for you and your student to sit down together and read the **Acceptable Use Policy** and discuss the privileges and responsibilities of using these resources at our school.*