

## Cascade Christian School Internet Use Policy

It is the responsibility of Cascade Christian School to prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To prepare our students for the technology of the future, the school is providing safe, supervised access to the Internet. Please note that the internet is an association of diverse communication and information networks. Note, too, that it is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy, below, for students to actively seek objectionable material.

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### **Acceptable Use Policy**

Computers and access to the Internet are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of Cascade Christian School. We recognize the potential for students to use computers in malicious and hurtful ways to discredit or undermine other students. This is considered a form of bullying and is a violation of our students.

#### **Computer/device users must not:**

- Divulge personal information about themselves or others inappropriately; send or display offensive messages/pictures
- Harass, insult, or attack others
- Use obscene language
- Allow computer viruses to infect the school computers
- Engage in plagiarism\* (copying someone else's ideas, language, or research without acknowledging the exact source or pretending it's your own)
- Violate copyrights (copying someone else's work without their permission)
- Intentionally cause damage to computers, computer systems, programs, or networks

These behaviours and standards are expected of Cascade students both on and off campus. The Cascade discipline policy may apply in both circumstances.

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#### ***Specific to Cascade Christian School, Computer/device users must not:***

- Use computers for commercial purposes
- Waste system or network resources
- Try to "break" passwords or gain access to protected areas
- Use anyone else's password
- Trespass in or tamper with anyone else's work or files
- Execute any program received in an email or found on a web page except as directed by a teacher
- Download or install any program except as directed by a teacher or network administrator or required by a DL course
- Play internet games unless directed by a teacher
- Use computers/devices for non-educational purposes (music, Netflix, YouTube, etc.)
- Use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to complete assignments, tests, or projects without teacher authorization
- Use AI to create content that is offensive, harmful, or intended to mislead or impersonate others
- Use AI to bypass school rules, security, or access restricted information

#### **Acceptable uses of AI include:**

- Supporting research, brainstorming, or idea generation under teacher guidance
  - Assisting with drafting, organization, or understanding of topics, provided AI contributions are clearly acknowledged and accompanied by the student's own work
  - Enhancing creativity in approved projects under teacher supervision
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Acceptable uses of computers and the internet are activities which support learning and teaching. The use of the school's computers is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in disciplinary action as determined by the administration, including suspension of computer privileges, conduct referral, and school suspension/withdrawal. If warranted, legal charges could also be applied.

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**\*Plagiarism**

Webster’s dictionary defines plagiarism as taking and using as one’s own the thoughts, writings, or inventions of another; persons can plagiarize from a book, from the internet, or from someone’s unpublished work (copying an assignment).

**How to avoid plagiarism?** Always acknowledge your sources. It is acceptable to borrow quotes or ideas, but credit the author! Teachers often appreciate when students use quotes — it shows research has been done.

**Cascade will take action against plagiarism**

1. Students will not receive credit for work they have not completed themselves; a plagiarizing student may fail an assignment.
  2. Students referred to the office for plagiarism will be dealt with according to the Cascade disciplinary policy.
  3. Parents will be notified if their son or daughter plagiarizes.
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It is expected that parents and students will support the school’s *Internet Use Policy* as outlined above. Please sign below and return to the office.

*We have read and agree to follow the Cascade Christian School Internet Use Policy as outlined above. We understand the consequences of inappropriate Internet use and will comply with the school’s disciplinary action.*

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ *(required for all students entering Grade 4-12)*

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_