



To Avon Maitland District School Board Students and their Parents/Guardians:

Several of the projects in which students will be involved at school this year include the use of the Internet. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. With access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that is not consistent with educational goals.

While the Avon Maitland District School Board does actively screen Internet content with a view to block sites that may be inappropriate, it also relies on direct supervision and student awareness of appropriate behaviour to ensure student safety while using this resource. On a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious, determined student can uncover controversial information. We believe that the value of the information and interaction available on this worldwide network, when combined with supervision and student awareness, makes the Internet a benefit to a student's educational experience.

Avon Maitland District School Board supports the use of the Internet for student related curriculum. Two web sites have been established for use by all students as a means to locate relevant, monitored and curriculum specific sites. For routinely monitored web pages please visit: www.yourschools.ca and click on the link to Getting Students Connected – Elementary or Getting Students Connected – Secondary (GSC 2ndary). For information about the safe use of the Internet, please check out the resources located at the Internet Safety link on the Board web site.

Students are expected to use the school's Internet access in support of educational goals. The Board's Code of Conduct outlines expectations for students, including behaviour with respect to use of computers.

Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to: (i) activities which may damage equipment; (ii) downloading, copying or transmitting any material which is in violation of any Federal or Provincial regulation such as copyrighted material; threatening or obscene (including pornographic) material; hateful, racist or discriminatory material; (iii) any breach of security on local and remote sites including use or attempted use of another user's account; unlawful entry or attempted entry into any network system; any attempt to gain unauthorized access to view, alter, copy, share or destroy data and the creation and/or willful transmission of computer viruses or virus hoaxes; and, (iv) graffiti on monitors, keyboards, hardware equipment.

Students are also advised that they may connect personally owned computer equipment only to the Board's guest wifi network.

Inappropriate use by a student could result in denial of computer privileges, suspension and/or legal action.