Marble Falls Independent School District (MFISD)
Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

MFISD provides Internet access, network resources, computing devices, software, and other technologies to its students for educational purposes. This AUP defines the expectations for appropriate use of MFISD systems by MFISD students. Students who violate the AUP or other related campus technology and behavior guidelines may lose the privilege to use MFISD systems and Internet access.

Section I: Educational Purpose

    A.   The MFISD systems were established for a limited educational purpose. The term "educational purpose" includes classroom activities, career development, and teacher-directed research projects.

    B.   The MFISD systems were established as a public access service and a limited public forum. MFISD retains the right to place reasonable restrictions on the materials accessed or transmitted through its systems. Students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the MFISD Student Code of Conduct, Campus Rules, and MFISD Board Policy as well as state and federal laws and regulations, when using the MFISD systems.

    C.   The MFISD systems are not to be used for commercial purposes. This means students cannot offer, provide, or purchase products or services through the MFISD systems.

    D.   The MFISD systems are not to be used for political lobbying. However, the system can be used to communicate with elected representatives and to express opinions on political issues.

Section II: Internet Access and Online Systems

    A.   Students will have access to the Internet, online information resources, and MFISD-provided information resources from school computing devices in classrooms, libraries, labs, and common areas, and from home when using personal Internet-enabled devices or MFISD checkout devices. Access to these systems and resources is provided and intended for instructional purposes as defined by MFISD. MFISD employs an Internet content filter in an effort to safeguard its students from inappropriate or dangerous content while they are utilizing online resources. MFISD takes reasonable steps through its adopted policies and technologies to prevent access to objectionable material, but it is not possible to absolutely prevent such access. Students should not attempt to bypass the Internet filter for any reason and should notify a teacher or other school personnel if objectionable content is displayed.

    B.   All materials and information placed on student-created web pages for instructional purposes must be preapproved in a manner specified by MFISD. Materials placed on web pages must relate to the approved curriculum or to career preparation activities. Students may blog or post

information to educational websites under teacher supervision for instructional purposes as part of the MFISD approved curriculum.

C.   Students will be granted access to computers, MFISD systems, MFISD Internet access, and other software through individual user or group accounts. Passwords for these accounts must not be shared, and students should only use their own individual or group account. Accessing another student's account is a direct violation of the Student AUP.

D.   Students may use messaging systems, including social networking/media tools that are approved and provided by MFISD and used under teacher supervision for instructional purposes as part of the MFISD approved curriculum. Students are prohibited from participating in chat rooms, newsgroups, or other systems or forums that are not approved for instructional use by MFISD and that may represent safety concerns or poor use of instructional time for students.

Section III: Expectations for Student Use of MFISD Systems

A.   Student Safety
1.   Students will not post personal information or contact information about themselves or other individuals online. Personal contact information includes address, telephone number, school address, parent or student work addresses, pictures, names, email addresses, photos, etc. Online collaborations under teacher supervision for instructional purposes as part of the MFISD approved curriculum may provide student contact information as necessary to fulfill the goal of the project.

2.   Students will not agree to meet with someone they have met online outside of a school-sanctioned project or instructional experience supervised by a teacher as part of the MFISD approved curriculum.

3.   Students will promptly disclose to the teacher, or another school employee, any communication or experience using a technology system that is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.

4.   Students will not post, transmit, or store private or personal information from or about another person, including contact information and photos.

B.   Student Conduct
1.   Students will not attempt to gain unauthorized access to MFISD systems, MFISD computers, or any other system when using the MFISD network. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account, accessing another person's files, forgery, and attempted forgery. Unauthorized equipment may not be brought to an MFISD building or utilized on the MFISD systems for these or any other purposes.

2. Students will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt MFISD systems or data through any means. Actions of this type violate District policy and regulations and may result in loss of access privileges, restitution, and other appropriate consequences.

3. Students will not use MFISD systems to engage in any illegal act, such as arranging for the sale or purchase of controlled substances, engaging in criminal activity, threatening the safety of a person, harassment, or cyberbullying.

4. Students will not use obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language when using MFISD systems.

5. Students will not engage in personal, prejudicial or discriminatory attacks when using MFISD systems, nor will students knowingly or recklessly post or transmit false or defamatory information about a person or organization when using MFISD systems.

6. Students will not load or install programs on MFISD systems. This includes programs and files downloaded from the Internet, portable drives, or their own equipment (such as games, utilities, and other software not licensed by the District). Use of peer to peer file sharing software is prohibited. Student use of online media is to be supervised by a teacher according to MFISD policy and regulation.

7. Students will not use MFISD systems to send unnecessary or unsolicited information or messages to others.

C. Student Information Security and Academic Integrity
1. Students are responsible for their individual folders and data, and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use their credentials or data. Students will not provide their login credentials or passwords to another student. Students will not provide their files to another student for the purpose of cheating or using another person's work as their own.

2. Students must notify a teacher or Technology personnel immediately if they identify a security problem. Students are not to seek out security vulnerabilities themselves.

3. Students will not plagiarize works that are found online or when using MFISD systems. Plagiarism is taking the ideas, writing or work products of others and presenting them as one's own. Students must cite the source of material they have used in their research or school work.

4. Students will respect the rights of copyright owners by following the expressed requirements of copyrighted material they wish to use, or by requesting permission of the copyright owner directly.

Section IV: Student Rights

A.   Free Speech
A student's right to free speech, as set forth in the MFISD Student Code of Conduct and Campus Handbook, applies to communication on the Internet and MFISD systems. MFISD systems are considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper; and therefore, the District may restrict a student's speech for valid educational reasons in accordance with Board Policy.

B.   Search and Investigation
1. Students should not expect privacy in the contents of personal files on MFISD provided systems, as both the accounts and provided systems are property of MFISD.

2. Routine monitoring of MFISD systems and usage information may be used to determine if a student has acted in accordance with the AUP, MFISD Student Code of Conduct and Campus Handbook, or state or federal law, and may lead to more in-depth investigation.

C.   Due Process
1. The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation related to any illegal activities conducted on MFISD systems.

2. Violations of the AUP, MFISD Student Code of Conduct, and Campus Handbook regarding the use of MFISD systems by a student will result in the application of disciplinary procedures and consequences outlined in the MFISD Student Code of Conduct.

D.   Limitation of Liability
The District makes no guarantee that the functions or the services provided by, or through, the District's system will be error-free or without defect. The District will not be responsible for any damage a student may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data or interruptions of service. The District is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through, or stored on, the system. The District is not responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system.