INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Mission Statement:
The International American School of Cancun offers Internet service with the expressed purpose of supplementing a student's educational experience at IAS.

General Internet Policy:
Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and other knowledge repositories linked together through the Internet. Students may use the Internet to participate in distance learning activities, to seek answers from experts, or to find information related to learning assignments given in classes. Our computer specialists and classroom teachers will assist a student to develop skills and etiquette necessary to discriminate among information sources, identify appropriate information for their assignment, and to evaluate the truthfulness of information found on the Internet.

Making Internet access available to a student carries with it a potential for encountering information not appropriate for students. It is not easy to control web site content ahead of going to a web site. Creating a "safe Internet environment" for a student is an important goal for our school, but cannot be perfectly achieved without assistance from all participating parties – **student**, **parent**, and **school**. Each **student** must be aware this school **does not** give "unlimited access" privilege to the student. Instead, the student only receives authorization to visit web sites related to educational assignments given to the student. **Parents** must assist the school with this task by insisting their son or daughter be a "responsible" Internet user, encouraging him/her to visit only proper web sites. Internet activities at home should be monitored. The **school** will bear the responsibility of "attempting" to limit access to non-educational web sites.

Student Privilege to Use the Internet:
Using the Internet at IAS is a privilege and not a right for each student. It is entirely possible for a student to receive an education without access to the Internet. Therefore, each student must be aware there is a consequence for inappropriate use of the Internet that will result in immediate loss of privilege to use the Internet. Depending upon the nature of the infraction, the length of time the student is kept off the school's Internet service will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In addition, if the circumstances surrounding the infraction warrant, other disciplinary measures may be necessary.

Unacceptable Student Use of the Internet:
IAS staff and administrators hope that each student will always make good decisions about appropriate use of the Internet accessed only through our school computer network. It is important to mention that any other means of connecting to the Internet and accessing any information provided by third party companies and/or devices will be considered a clear breach in school policy and protocol. This includes but is not limited to using GSM mobile cards and/or adapters on your personal computers, and accessing the Internet through your cell phone or communications device's provider (Telcel, Movistar, Nextel, Iusacel, etc). We know that when a student is using a computer often there is a feeling of being "distant" from authority. This feeling incorrectly cloaks the user into a feeling of "not being seen". The feeling is an illusion. Each computer has several unique identification numbers used when communicating with other computers. All IAS computers have logging software that feeds data about the user to a permanent record. Information about web sites visited, time of day, software use, etc. are recorded and archived from each computer.
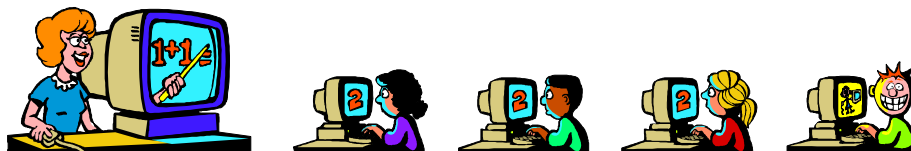
The school will willingly cooperate with local, state, or federal agencies accountable for policing Internet use. All school Internet abuse incidents will be investigated as completely as possible. In cases where state or federal law is broken by student use of the Internet, evidence residing on school computers and routing devices will be available to law enforcement officials to use for prosecution of those responsible for the act.

This list represents major issues related to unacceptable Internet use. It is impossible to cite all possible unacceptable uses of the Internet. Thus, the student is aware that he or she may be cited for "other" unacceptable uses not specifically listed here. Our advice to students is to error on the side of caution when in doubt about a

particular use of the Internet being acceptable or unacceptable. When a student is in doubt about a particular use of the Internet, he or she is encouraged to speak with a staff member to receive clarification on the issue.

Possible situations that students should avoid include:
1. Posting personal information about yourself or another person including such items as residential address, telephone number, or certain school information
2. Entering into or initiating an Internet chat session using Instant Messenger, Yahoo Messenger, IRC, etc. unless monitored by a staff member and as a part of a classroom assignment or project
3. Downloading or sending files over the Internet unless this activity in under the supervision of a staff member and for a class assignment or project
4. Downloading, selling, or distributing copyright material
5. Viewing web sites on the Internet not directly related to a classroom assignment. The exception occurs when a staff member gives a student permission to view web sites not directly related to a classroom assignment as an enrichment activity for that class.
6. Using inappropriate language while using our school network of computers to transmit a message of any kind or material posted to a web site
7. Sending or receiving/replying text messages while in any class regardless to or whom it's from.
8. Using camera enabled devices to record videos or take pictures of school materials, faculty or students without their express consent.
9. Uploading **any** unauthorized information onto websites (such as YouTube, Facebook, My Space, etc).
10. Any additional activity not specifically listed that uses the school's computer network to violate any conduct code specified in the IAS Student Handbook
11. Vandalizing school computer hardware or software. This would include stealing computer hardware components, tampering with a computer or software, or pirating software residing on school computers.
12. Attempting to gain unauthorized access to any computer that is a part of the Internet including file and web servers. In addition, the act of simply probing another computer to find computer security weaknesses is considered an illegal activity.
13. Attempting to disrupt normal computer operation or network operation in any fashion so that users are limited or stopped from accessing other computers on the network (including the Internet). Activity such as downloading a virus onto a computer or spreading a virus over a network constitutes an illegal action.
14. Engaging in any other illegal activity not specifically listed above using the school computer network a and/or computers will be pursued to the full extent of the law.

IAS Internet Protocol For Students

I	Identify the author or organization that wrote the site. Is the author or organization an expert on the subject? Are the author's or organization's credentials found on the site?
N	No use of Wikipedia, or other untrustworthy websites. These sites tend to be updated by individuals/groups without the necessary credentials for the subject.
T	Trust .edu, .org, and .gov! These sites reflect organizations that are authorities on the subjects being researched.
E	Evaluate the purpose of the website! Use of banner advertising, pop up windows, reading level, and the use of animation may be an indicator. Is the information presented in a balanced manner or does it favor one side or opinion?
R	Remember the dates! Check the date of copyright or update found on the website. Information found on the website might be out of date. Information on the sciences, technology, or business may become quickly outdated, whereas information on subjects such as English or history may be valid for a longer time.

N	No use of websites that use the tilde (~). This symbol usually indicates that the website is individual and not representing an authoritative source or organization.
E	Ensure that the website has a bibliography! Check the sources on the website. Does the site use books, encyclopedias, magazines or strictly other websites? Are they well-known? If it doesn't have a bibliography, then it is not trustworthy.
T	Trust your Instincts! If you suspect a Web page may not be legitimate, then it probably isn't.