# Letter to Parent
# Addressing the Internet Use Policy

**Dear Parent:**

We now have Internet access available to students for instruction and research through our Technology Lab. The *your school here* Board of Directors has established an Internet Acceptable Use Policy which includes a policy for students.

Attached is the Internet Acceptable Use Policy for Students policy. In order for your student to use the Internet at *your school here* you and your student must read this policy and sign the form. We have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure your student will be safe while using the Internet through the utilization of a filter, the room setting and adults monitoring students while they are logged on.

We would like to suggest a similar policy be used in your home and that you and your student discuss Internet use at school and at home. On the other side of this letter is a list of ideas for how to ensure a safe experience for your student while they use the Internet at home.

Please send the signed agreement form to school with your student as soon as you have completed it. Your student will not be able to use the Internet until the agreement form is signed by you and your student and returned to the Technology Instructor.

Sincerely,

*Principal's name*,
Principal

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## Tips for Parents to Protect Children from Online Dangers

- Parents should become more computer literate and Internet savvy.
- Check out parental controls available on your online service. Block adult chat rooms. Consider blocking Instant/Personal Messages (but remember that blocks Grandma, too).
- Install blocking or filtering software on your home computer.
- Do not let your child have his or her own personal information or profile online. Without profiles, your children can't be found in directories and may be less likely to be approached in children's chat rooms, where pedophiles often search for prey.
- Tell your children to never give out personal information, including name, address, school they attend or teacher's names, parents names, etc. You may wish to provide your children with a "pretend name" for online use.
- Tell your children to never, never, never tell anyone online where they'll be or what they'll be doing.
- Tell your children to let you know if anything seems strange to them, if they are asked personal ("What are you wearing" type) questions, or if their online friend invites them someplace.
- Tell your children to never "go private" into a private chat room, without your presence.
- Tell your children to never download files or pictures from someone online.
- Remind your children that some people get online and pretend to be other people.

- Keep the computer in a "public" area in your house. Monitor your children's computer use. Talk with your children about their online activities, who their online friends are, whether anything strange or upsetting has happened while they were online, etc.
- Remember, you wouldn't drop your children off unattended at a crowded shopping mall for two hours,. Don't do the equivalent on the Internet.
- Never give out your password, even if it appears as though your Internet Service Provider is asking for it.
- Beware of downloading files. Some files can contain "trojan horses" that will capture your password for someone else's use. Viruses may also be in downloaded files. Make sure you know the source of the files you are downloading and use virus protection software.