



# White Salmon Valley Schools Key to the Future

August 24, 2012

Dear parents or guardians of White Salmon Valley School District students:

Attached you will find White Salmon Valley School District's new *Electronic Resources Use Policy (Revised August, 2012)* regarding the use of networked computers and the Internet at school, as well as a signature permissions page. Although you've likely signed a permission form for using computers at school in the past, there are a number of important changes in this new version, and we are asking that you take some time to review it, discuss choices about appropriate use of school computers with your child, decide what permissions you would like to grant for your child, and then sign and return the single signature page as soon as possible. Please keep the copy of the three-page policy for future reference.

This policy is a bit longer than the ones we've used in the past. There are a number of reasons why the policy has been revised and expanded at this time. The items below highlight just a few of the new areas of focus of the new policy.

- 1) You'll note that sections 2 and 3 of the policy deal in part with the increasing numbers of personal electronic devices that students now bring to school. Students' personal laptop computers, mobile devices, smart-phones, and other devices can have valuable, educational uses at school, but they also present issues for the existing network that students and their parents and guardians need to consider. As more and more devices are brought to school and become part of the school network, their appropriate use needs to be understood.
- 2) Sections 4, 5, and 6 of the policy deal with another area of concern for those who use the Internet, and changes from our old policies in those sections are designed to make clear how the district is meeting requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and prepare our schools' children for an increasingly online future.

The signature page has also been revised and reorganized to help you make clear which permissions you wish to grant for your child.

1. The first place to initial shows whether or not you grant permission for your child to use the computers at school, governed by the three-page policy discussed above. Students whose parent/guardians initial No will not be allowed to use electronic devices at school.
2. The second section to initial allows you control the publication of information about your child online. Our new school websites allow teachers across the district to post class assignments, calendars, and other key information about their classes online. Some teachers will want to use examples of student work, note student names, or perhaps post pictures of class activities or projects online. Before posting that kind of material, however, we need the permission of the student and parent/guardian to do so. Please be sure to initial Yes or No for EACH of the 3 items in that section. If you later change your mind, you can contact the school to have the permissions changed.
3. The final place to initial deals with the school email accounts that are now available to students. These accounts, available to students in grades 5-12, are part of a sheltered domain, so they can only be used to communicate with teachers, staff, and other students in our schools. Some teachers rely on these student accounts to make access to online materials easier, while others use them for electronic assignments and communications to give students experience using such tools as they develop a sense of responsible digital citizenship. Please be sure to initial that section of the page as well (unless the student is not yet in 5<sup>th</sup> grade).

Replacing all the permissions across the district at once is a large undertaking, but the changes in policy are large enough and important enough that we think it's important to get everyone on board at the same time. For that reason, existing permissions from previous years will no longer be valid after September 14, 2012. Students who wish to use computers at school who have not returned the new version by then will not be able to use networked computers at school until the new form is returned and on file.

Signed permission forms may be returned to any school office. If you have any questions about the new policy, or any of our network or Internet policies, please contact me at (509)493-1500 or by email at [jerry.lewis@whitesalmonschools.org](mailto:jerry.lewis@whitesalmonschools.org).

Thank you,  
Jerry Lewis, White Salmon Valley School District Superintendent