



VIBRANT MINDS CHARTER SCHOOL

TK-6 Grade, Free, Public Education

412 W. Carl Karcher Way

Anaheim, California 92801

Office: 714-563-2390

FAX: 714-563-2401

<https://www.vibrantminds.us/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VMCharterSchool/>

BOARD POLICY CHILD INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)

Scholars must develop research, information fluency, and technology skills that will allow them to be successful in the digital world, as well as skills necessary to live safely and ethically. Computer access and access to the Internet, digital communication and collaboration tools, and online learning spaces are critical areas where scholars discover, develop, and practice their skills. These policies are intended to aid the process of skills development and promote safe, legal, and ethical use of technology in our school and for life.

Internet Access and Safety

Vibrant Minds Charter School (VMCS) will provide Internet services to scholars and staff, as well as parents/guardians volunteering in the school and guests on campus. Access is important since many educational resources are available on the Internet, and scholars need to be able to use learning resources, complete research assignments, and collaborate with others via the Internet. Teachers will set specific guidelines for appropriate classroom use of technology and review them with their scholars on a regular basis.

Technology Instruction

Teachers use technology regularly with meaningful activities that support the classroom curriculum. The computers are equipped with software and web-based programs that have been carefully selected by education technology specialists to provide curricular support across all content areas. Classrooms have access to Internet-connected computers. The intent is to empower scholars and teachers to explore a multitude of learning activities, libraries, databases, museums, etc., and to communicate with other Internet users around the world. A teacher will always be present when scholars are on the Internet. When applicable and practical, teachers will preview web sites used in instruction prior to the lesson or activity.

Publishing Scholar Work on the Internet

The Internet provides VMCS with a way to highlight scholars' accomplishments. There will be opportunities to publish scholars' work and share photographs and videos of special school events. Parents/guardians need to understand that their scholars' work and participation in events (written, video, or photograph) may be published on the Internet. However, unless permission is given, scholars' names will not be associated with the work or participation in an event. If a parent/guardian does not want his/her scholar's work or image to appear online, please make the request in writing with the Executive Director of VMCS.

Content Filtering and Blocking

To comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), VMCS has network content filters in place to guard against Internet access to inappropriate materials. While effective, no system is entirely reliable. Therefore, scholars will not have access to the Internet without adult supervision at the school. Even then, it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all advertising and controversial materials.

Email

VMCS does not provide scholars with email addresses. Sending and receiving email through a school-issued email account is not a permitted activity for scholars at VMCS.

Access Limitations

Scholars in kindergarten and first grades are permitted to access school provided computers leveraging anonymous access which is limited to a specific list of permitted websites. Children in second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades must log in to computer resources using their own unique login which ensures identification of the scholar accessing Internet resources. These grades are permitted to access Internet content not specifically blocked or filtered by our content filtering system. Scholars are expected to routinely make good choices when choosing how and where to spend time on the Internet.

Password Policies

No sharing of passwords or "generic" passwords are permitted. Scholars and staff must understand that passwords are personal and should be respected and protected. Password management is a skill and a necessary part of our digital age.

Digital Citizenship

The Internet provides access to a variety of communication tools for use in the classroom. While VMCS blocks or filters access to many websites, we understand that scholars need to be prepared to deal with the inappropriate content they inevitably encounter online. Therefore, teachers will educate scholars about appropriate online behavior, cyberbullying, and interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms. Scholars are expected to react appropriately whenever an inappropriate site or resource is encountered and let instructors know immediately (or as soon as possible) whenever this occurs.

Acceptable Technology Use

VMCS provides electronic resources, including Internet access and storage space for scholars' work, as an integral part of curriculum. Scholars agree to the following school policies:

Scholar Responsibilities

- Will use electronic resources, including storage space, only for educational purposes related to work at VMCS and not for any personal, commercial, or illegal purposes.

- Will use the Internet only with the permission of the staff member in charge.
- Will not use games or other electronic resources that have objectionable content or engage in an inappropriate simulated activity.
- Will not give their passwords to any other user, nor attempt to learn or to use anyone else's password, and will not transmit their address, telephone number, or any personal or confidential information about themselves or others.
- Will not upload, link, or embed any images of themselves or others to non-secured, public sites without teacher permission and a signed parental permission slip.
- Will not make statements or use the likeness of another person through website postings, email, instant messages, etc., that harass, intimidate, threaten, insult, libel, or ridicule scholars, teachers, administrators, or other staff members of the school community; make statements that are falsely attributed to others; or use language that is obscene.
- Will not attempt to access, upload, or transmit material that attacks ethnic, religious, or racial groups, or material that is pornographic or explicitly sexual in nature.
- Will not violate copyright laws; damage or tamper with hardware or software; vandalize or destroy data; intrude upon, alter, or destroy the files of another user; introduce or use computer "viruses;" attempt to gain access to restricted information or networks; or block, intercept, or interfere with any email or electronic communications by teachers and administrators to parents or others.
- Will not use, or create for others, any program to interfere with, change, or interact with programs, security settings, systems, or devices that are the property of the VMCS and are used for school-related purposes by scholars, their parents, and staff.
- Will not imply, directly or indirectly, either publicly or privately, that any created program or "app" is associated with or a product of VMCS, nor either directly or indirectly associate any such program with any VMCS logos or images.
- Will report any problems to the supervising staff member.
- Understand that use of the school system's computers is not private, and that VMCS reserves the right to monitor use to assure compliance with these guidelines; violations may lead to revocation of computer access and/or other disciplinary measures.
- Understand that prohibited conduct described above is also prohibited off campus when using private equipment if it has the effect of interfering with the educational process, and that such off-campus violations may lead to disciplinary measures.

Parent and Guardian Responsibilities

- Parents/guardians have the right at any time to review the contents of their child's electronic and email files. If a parent/guardian has concerns regarding their child's safety and wishes to review their child's electronic files, they must submit their request in writing to the school. The request must include the scholar's name and the reason for requesting a copy of their child's files. VMCS will then work to obtain copies of the files.

- Outside of school, parents/guardians bear responsibility for monitoring and providing guidance on Internet use, just as they do with other information sources such as television, radio, movies, and other possibly offensive or harmful media.
- VMCS may search any computer, mobile device, or electronic storage device that is assigned to a user or used on our network; and retrieve, alter, and delete any data created, received, or maintained by any user using school technology resources.
- Use of technology resources at VMCS is at scholars' own risk. The system is provided on an "as is, as available" basis, and VMCS is not responsible for any loss, damage, or unavailability of data stored on the system regardless of the cause.

Bringing Devices and Technology to School (Bring Your Own Device)

Scholars understand that VMCS does allow scholars to bring their own devices such as phones, tablets, and computers. To be permitted to bring their own device, they will agree to the following responsibilities and restrictions:

- Will keep all personal devices off and stored away in backpacks.
- Understand that devices may be confiscated at any time and that a staff member or law enforcement officer may view contents of these devices including, but not limited to, texts, emails, or social media postings, if it appears that the scholar may have used a device in violation of school rules, this agreement, or the law.
- Understand that the VMCS is not responsible for theft, damage, or loss of my device, and understand that under no circumstances are devices permitted to stay at school overnight.

Scholars without Parents'/Guardians' Permission to Use the Internet

Scholars without permission to use the Internet will be assigned alternative work in another location and will not learn online encyclopedia research and online digital citizenship or literacy skills, including cyberbullying awareness, online behavior, and social networking interaction. VMCS also utilizes Internet-based mathematics and reading programs, as well as an online streaming video service that teachers use to show educational videos about subjects they are teaching. Scholars who are not allowed on the Internet will not have the same learning experience as other scholars in the classroom. If parents/guardians do not want their scholar on the Internet for educational purposes, they must make the request in writing to the Director of Vibrant Minds Charter School.

Review of Policy

This policy may be reviewed periodically by the VMCS Board.

Adopted: January 13, 2021

Amended: