

Instruction

District/School/Staff/Student Publications

To enhance communication with students, parents/guardians, staff, community members, the public at-large and to foster creativity, the Board of Education encourages the development and ongoing maintenance of district and school publications on the Internet. All publications shall support the educational vision of the district and shall be consistent with the District's plans for communications and media relations.

The Board of Education encourages the administration and staff to create and maintain publications for the district and individual schools for educational purposes. These publications shall serve as avenues for educating the community, providing information about our schools and communicating with the extended school community. District and individual school publications shall be used to share information relating to the schools and the district mission. These publications may also provide instructional resources for staff and students. Content published should be of professional quality and consistent with the educational mission of the school system.

The Superintendent shall develop guidelines regarding the content of district and school publications, which shall include standards for the ethical and responsible use of information and technology. These guidelines shall be consistent with law, Board policy and administrative regulations. All published content must comply with these guidelines.

The District may develop publications through a variety of methods using a variety of services. These policies and regulations apply to such publications.

Failure to comply with this policy and applicable administrative regulations will result in discipline, including suspension of district Internet privileges and/or referral to law enforcement, if appropriate.

District Publications

District publications provide a resource for obtaining information about the district and for informing patrons about instructional program, activities and Board policies. Requests for publication of information on the district site should be directed to the Building Principal and/or Superintendent. Personal information, not related to education, will not be permitted.

School Publications

A school site provides unique and ever-changing ways to interact with the community and improve student learning. School publications:

1. Allow an individual school to provide current and complete information to its community at large.
2. Give the community a means to communicate effectively with students and personnel.
3. Create expanded means for student expression.
4. Provide new avenues for teachers to help students meet high standards of performance.

All school web publications shall conform to this policy and its accompanying regulations. The primary purpose of a schools' publications is to communicate effectively with its community. The Principal or designee shall ensure that the site is maintained in such a way that the community receives reasonably current and accurate information. A school may elect to have its publications serve additional purposes related to its educational mission.

When a school allows student publications on the Internet, the purpose of including such publications shall be clearly identified. These publications shall be consistent with the mission, goals, policies, programs and activities of the district.

All publications shall meet established district and school requirements related to student publications and in accordance with state and federal law related to student expression.

Staff Digital Publications

Staff may use digital media to implement curriculum goals, to provide instructional resources for other staff members and to facilitate learning. This use of digital media must reflect the educational goals and objectives of the district. Staff may not utilize publications sponsored or supported by the Woodbridge Board of Education for personal use or for proprietary gain.

Use of District publications by staff members shall comply with all rules and regulations promulgated by the school administration.

Content

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that publication content protects the privacy rights of students, parents/guardians, Board members and other individuals. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that copyright laws are not violated in the use of material on district or school publications. The Superintendent or designee may establish standards for the design of the district and school publications in order to maintain a consistent identity, professional appearance and ease of use.

No personal information about students or their parents/guardians, including telephone numbers, home addresses or e-mail addresses shall be published on a district or school site. Student directory information shall not be published on school or district publications.

All publication of student pictures or works shall follow the guidelines included in this policy.

District and school publications shall not include content which is obscene, libelous or slanderous or which creates a clear and present danger of inciting students to commit unlawful acts on school premises, violating school rules or substantially disrupting the school's orderly operation.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop and implement regulations which set forth that the District publications may only be used for educational and non-commercial purposes, and that the Board of Education has no responsibility or liability for any damages resulting from the use of the publications.

Policy adopted: May 20, 2014

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Woodbridge, Connecticut

Instruction

District/School/Staff/Student Digital Publications - Regulations

All digitally published materials must have educational value, relate to curriculum and instruction, school-authorized activities and/or support the District's guidelines, goals and policies.

All work should be free of any spelling or grammatical errors.

Prohibited uses, include but are not limited to:

- Advertising for commercial purposes and/or products.
- Campaigning related to issues, individuals and/or groups.
- Documents that violate an individuals' right to privacy or access the materials, information or files of another individual or organization without permission.
- Documents containing objectionable material, point directly to objectionable material or violate District policy. Objectionable material may be determined on a case-by-case basis by the building administrator.
- Spreading computer viruses or deliberately attempting to vandalize, damage, disable or disrupt the property of the district, another individual, organization or the network or any effort to locate, receive, transmit, store or print files or messages that are profane, obscene, sexually explicit or use language that is offensive or degrading to others.
- Violating copyright laws.

The Woodbridge School District reserves the right to remove any digital publication that violates district policy.

All links to non-district publications must have educational value, relate to curriculum and instruction, school-authorized activities and/or support the District's guidelines, goals and policies.

Staff may not use district publications to provide access to their personal pages on other servers or online services.

The following language will be included on each school site:

The Woodbridge Board of Education maintains this site to provide relevant information concerning the Woodbridge Public Schools. The Woodbridge Board of Education is not liable for any direct, incidental, consequential, indirect or punitive damages arising out of access to or use of this site. The Woodbridge Board of Education also assumes no responsibility and shall not be held liable for any damages to or viruses that may infect computer equipment or other property as a result of using, browsing or downloading any materials, data, images or text from this site or any publications linked to this site.

This site may provide links to other publications that may not be maintained by the Woodbridge Board of Education. The Woodbridge Board of Education does not make any warranty, express or implied, with respect to the use of the links provided or guarantee the accuracy, completeness, usefulness or adequacy of any resources, information, apparatus, product or process available at or from this site. Accordingly, the Woodbridge Board of Education is not responsible for the contents of any off-site pages or any other publications linked from this site. Linking to off-site pages or publications is at your own risk.

Copyright Guidelines

As an educational institution, we should be aware of the necessity of conforming to all laws, regardless of how they may be perceived on the Internet. The copyright law and the courts have provided exceptions to the rules that govern the behavior of teachers, students and schools. In general terms, teachers, students and schools are allowed to make fair use of materials for instructional purposes. "Fair use" has been interpreted to include those limited uses which are not likely to deprive a publisher or author from income.

Fair use of Internet resources by teachers, students, schools or district personnel should parallel the use of printed resources. Teachers and students might make limited use of some text and graphics within their own classrooms. They should not "publish" those same materials across other classrooms within the building by posting on any district site.

Teachers, students and district personnel may not make use of others' materials (graphics, text, etc.) when creating digital publications unless they have requested and received formal written permission from the author. This includes downloading material from non-district publications. Unless there is a clear statement that art, photos and text are "public domain" or "royalty-free" and available for free.

Digital Publication of Student Pictures, Names, and Works

In order to share the accomplishments, awards, and happenings in our district, pictures or first names of students can be published on a district site, but not both picture and first name together.

Student works that do not include personally identifiable information or material of a personal nature may be published on a district site using the student's first name only.

If a parent or guardian chooses to not have pictures, works and/or first names of their child appear on any district site, he or she should send a written request to the school principal.

If a teacher or the school believes that a student work including personally identifiable information or material of a personal nature should be published on a district site, the work may be published if a parent-signed release is obtained for the specific work.

No district employee may publish student pictures, names, or works on any non-district site without submitting to the principal explicit written permission from the child's parent. (Reference Form)

These regulations may be applied to other forms of publication on other forms of public media.

These regulations provide general guidelines but do not attempt to state all required or prohibited activities by users. Employees who have questions regarding whether a particular activity or use is acceptable should seek further guidance from the principal and/or designee.

All District publications on which student pictures, names, or works appear must include the following:

"The copyright of Student works and/or pictures accessible through this site is retained by the student. No student work or images including students may, in any form or by any means, be reproduced, reposted, redistributed, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted without prior written permission."

~~Pictures, works, and first names of students in grades Pre-K to Grade 2 shall not be published on publicly accessible publications except with permission from the parent. These works, pictures and first names may be published on District publications accessible only to students, school personnel, and parents using the guidelines stated above.~~

Pictures, works, and first names of students in Grades **PreK** 3 to 6 may be published on publicly accessible District publications using the guidelines stated above, unless parents have specifically requested otherwise.

Regulation approved: May 20, 2014

WOODBRIIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Woodbridge, Connecticut