

## **Internet Acceptable Use Agreement**

**Please read this document carefully before signing.**

Internet access is now available to students and teachers in the Banyan School.

We are very pleased to bring this access to Banyan School and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to promote educational excellence in schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to:

1. Electronic communications with people all over the world.
2. Information and news from NASA as well as the opportunity to correspond with the scientists at NASA and other research institutions.
3. Public domain software and shareware of all types.
4. Discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture to the environment to music to politics.
5. Access to many University Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress and ERIC, a large collection of relevant information to educators and students.
6. Graphical access to the World Wide Web, the newest and most exciting access tool on the Internet.

With this comprehensive access also comes the availability of materials that may not be considered to be of educational value in the context of the school setting. The Banyan School has taken precautions to restrict access to controversial materials. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials, and an industrious user may discover controversial information. We (Banyan School) firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure materials that are not consistent with the educational goals of the School. We recognize that for certain courses or projects, restricting access may impede the attainment of objectives. Staff members may request that any restrictions be lifted for such cases; these requests will be considered individually by the school administration.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users that must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a Banyan School user violates any of these provisions, his or her account will be terminated and future access could possibly be denied. Violation of these regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understands their significance.

## Internet – Terms and Conditions of Use

1. *Acceptable Use* – The purpose of NSFNET, which is the backbone network to the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and opportunity for collaborative work. The use of your account must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational objectives of the Banyan School. Use of other organization's network or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulations is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted materials, threatening or obscene materials protected by trade secret.
2. *Privileges* – The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. (Each student or teacher who receives an account will be part of a discussion with the Banyan School staff members pertaining to the proper use of the network.) The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also the system administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of the Banyan School may request the system administrator to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts
3. *Network Etiquette* – You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- a. Be polite
  - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
  - c. Do not reveal you personal address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
  - d. Note the electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activity maybe reported to the authorities.
  - e. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
  - f. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to the private property.
4. The Banyan School makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Banyan School will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions, etc. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The Banyan School specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
  5. *Security* – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you think you have identified a security problem on the Internet, you must notify a system administrator or the Banyan School

Technology Coordinator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the Internet as system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to Internet.

6. *Vandalism* – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data or another user, Internet, or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to the NSFNET Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.