

Freedom Intermediate School

WEB TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT

Many teachers will be using technology-based programs designed to help develop and explore student interest in curricular areas, such as sharing writing samples with a class audience. Students will be using password-protected, online technologies, such as blogs, wikis, and student social networking sites.

A blog is a special type of discussion page that promotes posts on teacher-generated topics. Each new entry has its own date stamp, and each entry has a comments section where visitors to the blog may leave comments for the author. A wiki is a website that allows users to add or modify content to its pages, essentially creating a collaborative webpage. Education-friendly sites, such as Edmodo, Socrative, and others, provide additional outlets for student collaboration online in a safe and secure environment.

How it Works

These teachers may periodically post a section addressing a new concept or a discussion question about a class assignment. After the posting, students will respond with a comment to the blog, wiki, or password-protected webpage over which the teacher maintains all authority. The emphasis is on the relevance and quality of the comments, rather than the quantity of what they write. Each posting helps students craft their writing while encouraging response to learning. When students are finished posting their responses, the teachers will review them for relevance. In the event an inappropriate comment is made, it will be deleted immediately.

Having a real audience is one of the key components to this program. In addition to reading and receiving comments from their classmates, the students will also receive comments from their teachers. Responding to new learning provides critical evidence of comprehension, and sharing those ideas with others through writing substantially strengthens language skills as well.

Security

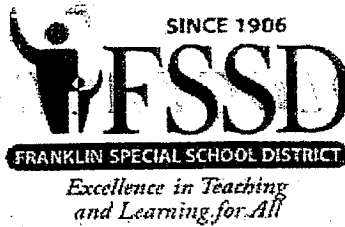
This technology project is designed to minimize risk to your child. The only personally identifying information included through these sites will be a **unique user name** (at least 8 characters; no spaces; *not* the child's actual name). Access to these sites is intended for only the students in these classes. Access is password-protected. There will be no mention of our school name or our location. Students are allowed to post their thoughts, interests, and opinions, but not their age, email address, photographs of themselves, or other sensitive information.

Performance

The purpose of these assignments is to share learning experiences with classmates and to share thoughts about curricular material in an online format. Students tend to be enthusiastic about discussions through the use of blogs, wikis, or social networking than through a traditional speaking or writing situation. These assignments may or may not be graded, depending upon the instructional format and expectations of the lesson.

Permission

We are asking for you and your child to discuss, sign the form on the reverse side, and help create a unique user name with your child. Students will not be allowed to participate until we have received this signed form. Please return the form to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible.



Technology Participation Terms and Conditions

1. Students are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their posts. They must agree to not post or give out family name, password, user name, email address, home address, school name, city, country or other information. They may share interests, ideas and preferences as it relates to the writing project.
2. Students agree not to share their user name or password with anyone other than their teachers, school administrators, and parents. Students may never log in as another student.
3. Students are expected to treat online spaces as classroom spaces. Speech that is inappropriate for class is also inappropriate for the online class discussions. While we encourage students to engage in debate and conversation with other classroom participants, we also expect students to conduct themselves in a manner reflective of a representative of our school.
4. These online formats are to be a forum for student expression. However, they are first and foremost a tool for learning, and as such will sometimes be constrained by the various requirements and rules of classroom teachers.
5. All student comments are to be a vehicle for sharing student thoughts about reading through writing for a real audience. All visitors to the blogs, wikis, and Edmodo pages are expected to leave only respectful, informative messages. If for some reason you should ever read a comment that makes you feel uncomfortable or is not respectful, alert your teacher immediately. Do not respond to the comment.
6. Students using these Web technologies are expected to take good care of the computers by not downloading or installing any software without permission and not clicking on advertisements, contests, or other irrelevant pop-ups.
7. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in this project and may be denied future computer access in FIS classrooms.

We have read and understood these participation terms and conditions and agree to uphold them.

Student's name: _____ Homeroom: _____

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Student web user name: _____
(at least 8 characters; no spaces; no student names)