

Barnwell School District 45  
Technology Handbook for Parents and Students

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Technology Handbook for Parents and Students

Using technology, students engage with the world around them and beyond. Transformative technologies will ignite learning in our students and inspire them to experience 21st century learning. Working collaboratively on authentic problem and project-based activities students will develop vital creativity, critical thinking, communication, and problem solving skills necessary to prepare them for a future that we can only imagine.

#### Student Computing Goals

1. **Improved Student Learning:** Through instructional strategies that apply best practices in teaching with technology and a variety of resources which support the curriculum, student learning will improve.
2. **Meaningful Student Engagement:** Through our 1:1 computing program one of our goals is to make school more engaging and relevant for our students and to support meaningful and more challenging work.
3. **21st Century Skills:** We will ensure that students have high level 21st century skills which will prepare them for a successful future.
4. **Project and Problem-based Learning Opportunities:** Through personalized, authentic, and collaborative experiences, students will solve problems and demonstrate their learning through project-based activities.

5. Equity of Access: We will bridge the digital divide by providing all students with access to technology tools and resources for anytime, anywhere learning.

Barnwell School District 45 understands that technology is a critical tool in the pursuit of your child's education. Barnwell 45 uses technology of many sorts to provide depth and breadth to your child's education and to engage him/her in the world both now and in the future. For you, this Handbook provides ready access to policies and resources that will help you realize how many technological resources are now available to your child. We also hope that this handbook will be a source of guidance as you realize that Barnwell 45 has taken many steps to keep our children safe. Barnwell School District 45 needs you to be a partner in your child's education and safety. When the District resources are paired with engaged parents, and students who are ready to learn, there is no limit to what we can accomplish!

Barnwell School District 45 encourages students to use a variety of technologies to enhance their learning. To ensure the privacy and safety of our students, and to protect data and our resources, we ask parents and students to become familiar with policy and regulations that have been established for technology use in the district. Barnwell 45's aim is to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all electronic resource activities. With this privilege and opportunity to explore resources come responsibilities for the parent and for the student.

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# **BSD45 Technology Basics: What You Must Know**

## **Responsible Use Procedures (RUP)**

When signing the [Responsible Use Procedures](#) (RUP), you are acknowledging that you understand and accept the information in this document and agree to Barnwell School District 45 Responsible Use Procedures and Terms and Conditions for Device Usage.

Barnwell 45 students and families must understand that:

1. Devices are available for student use and remain the property of Barnwell 45.
2. All users are accountable to all school, district, local, state, and federal laws.
3. All use of devices and network must support education.
4. Students and families must follow all guidelines set forth in this document and by Barnwell 45 staff.

5. All rules and guidelines are in effect before, during, and after school hours, for all Barnwell 45 devices whether on or off the school campus.
6. All files stored on Barnwell 45 equipment or the network are property of the district and may be subject to review and monitoring.
7. The term “equipment” or “technology” refers to devices, batteries, and power cord/chargers. Each piece of equipment is issued as an educational resource. The conditions surrounding this equipment can be equated to those of a textbook.
8. Students are expected to keep the devices in good condition. Failure to do so may result in bills for repair or replacement. Students in grades 3 -8 are expected to report any damage to their device immediately to their teacher. BHS students will report any damage to their device to the Media Specialist.
9. Students who identify or know about a security problem are expected to convey the details to their teacher without discussing it with other students.
10. Students are expected to notify a staff member immediately if they come across information, images, or messages that are inappropriate, dangerous, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable. In turn staff members will report the incident to the administration.
11. All users are expected to follow existing copyright laws and educational fair use policies.
12. Students may only log in under their assigned username. Students may not share their password with other students.
13. Students are not to loan device components to other students. Students who do so are responsible for any loss of components.
14. Any failure to comply may result in disciplinary action. Barnwell 45 may remove a user’s access to the network without notice at any time if the user is engaged in any unauthorized activity.
15. Barnwell 45 reserves the right to confiscate the property at any time.
16. Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Barnwell School District 45 makes every effort to equip parents/guardians with the necessary tools and information to ensure safe use of the devices in the home. There are several responsibilities assumed by the parent/guardian and the student. These are outlined below.

- All Parents/Guardians and Students are required to sign the [Responsible use Procedures](#).

## **Device Rules and Guidelines**

The rules and regulations are provided here so that students and parents/guardians are aware of the responsibilities students accept when they use a district-owned device. In general, this requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of all technology resources. Violations of these rules and guidelines will result in disciplinary action. Students will receive device-related training at school once they obtain their device.

- All use of technology must:
  - Support learning
  - Follow local, state, and federal laws
  - Be school appropriate

- Security Reminders
- Do not share logins or passwords
- Exception: students should share passwords with parents or guardians
- Follow Internet safety guidelines
- Students are prohibited from:
  - Defacing Barnwell 45 issued equipment in any way. This includes but is not limited to marking, painting, drawing or marring any surface of the devices.
  - If such action occurs, the student will be billed the cost of repair or replacement.

### **Caring For the Device**

- The device is district property and all users will follow this procedure and the Barnwell School District 45 [Responsible Use Policy](#).
- Students are prohibited from overriding filters placed on the network for their safety.
- Students should use the device assigned to them and not lend their device to others.
- Students are responsible for the general care of the device issued by the school.
- Students are responsible for keeping the device's battery charged for school each day.
- Students with a damaged device or a device failing to operate properly must notify their teacher or their media specialist.
- Only use a clean, soft cloth to clean the screen, no cleansers of any type.
- Cords and cables must be inserted carefully into the device to prevent damage.
- Devices must never be left unattended, in an unlocked locker, unlocked car, and unsupervised area or in extreme temperatures.

### Carrying the Device

- Devices must be carefully carried at all times.
- Caution should be taken to prevent crushing. Folders, workbooks, etc. should be kept in a book bag or carried separately to avoid placing excessive pressure and weight on the device screen.

### Screen Care

- Screen damage will occur when pressure is applied to the screen. Users must avoid leaning on the top of the device when closed and placing objects in a book bag that would apply pressure to the screen.
- The screen must be cleaned with a dry soft cloth or anti-static cloth.
- The device must not be bumped against lockers, walls, car doors, floors, etc. as it will break the screen.
- Only carry a device that has a lid by holding the base not the screen.

## Care of Device at Home

- The power cord/charger should remain with the Chromebook at all times.
- Charge the device fully each night.
- Use the device in a common room of the home.
- Store the device on a desk or table - never on the floor!
- Protect the device from: Extreme heat or cold. - Food and drinks. - Small children. - Pets.
  
- Do not leave the device in a vehicle.
- In case of theft, an official police report will be required. SRO should be notified immediately.

## Email for Students

All Barnwell 45 school students are issued a district email account. Barnwell 45 email allows students to safely and effectively communicate and collaborate with Barnwell 45 staff and classmates, giving them an authentic purpose for writing.

### Email Usage

- The primary purpose of the student electronic mail system is for students to communicate with school staff and fellow students to collaborate on school activities.
- Students are responsible for good behavior while using school e-mail (at school and at home), just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway.
- Access to e-mail is given to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. Access is a privilege – not a right. Access entails responsibility.
- Students are responsible for messages sent from their accounts.
- Students should not share their passwords.
- Students should not give out personal information over email, including home telephone numbers or home addresses.
- Students will not use email to bully, harass, or threaten other students or individuals.
- Students will report any unusual activities such as "spam" communications, obscene email, and attempts by adults to lure them into dangerous behaviors to their teacher.
- Students will not use email to send chain letters, viruses, hoaxes or forward social or non-school related email to other students or staff.
- Email accounts may be monitored and assessed.
- School email should only be used to sign up for school related accounts and other collaborative Internet tools.
- Student email is provided by the district and is district property. Barnwell School District 45 reserves the right to archive, monitor and/or review all use of its email system, and users should not have any expectation of privacy in any electronic message created, sent or received on the District's email system.
- Student email accounts will be removed from the system after graduation, leaving the school district, or disciplinary actions. If necessary, Barnwell School District 45, at its discretion, may close the accounts at any time.

## Email Etiquette

- Don't SHOUT! If you type in all capital letters, your reader will see this as yelling, or they will think that you were just too lazy to use proper text formatting. It's also hard on the eyes - did you know that it takes longer to read something written in all caps than it does to read something that is properly formatted?
- Use a meaningful subject line. This is the first thing your reader will see, so use the space to help them understand the contents of the email even before they open it. So type in a subject that relates to the message you're sending.
- Proof, spell-check, and use proper formatting. Poor writing skills are a direct reflection on you, and the reader never forgets the person who writes a poorly written message.

## Guidelines and Reminders

- Email should be used for educational purposes only.
- Email transmissions may be monitored by staff at any time to ensure appropriate use. This means that teachers may check students' email.
- All -mail and all contents are property of the district.
- Email should only be used by the authorized owner of the account.
- Students need to protect their passwords.

## Unacceptable Use Examples

- Non-education related forwards (e.g. jokes, chain letters, images).
- Harassment, profanity, obscenity, racist terms.
- Cyber-bullying, hate mail, discriminatory remarks.
- Email for individual profit or gain, advertisement, or political activities.
- Anything else deemed inappropriate by school personnel.

## Chatting

Chatting has been disabled on all chrome books. Similar to supervision at school, we recommend parent/guardian supervise the device use at home as well.

## Listening to Music

- At School - Listening to music on your device is not recommended as the district works to maintain bandwidth for testing, and everyday general internet usage.

## Watching Movies

- At School - Watching movies on your device is not allowed during school hours without permission from the teacher.

## Gaming

- At School - Online gaming is not allowed during school hours unless you have been given permission by a teacher. Any games must be in support of education.

## **Backgrounds and Screensavers**

Any images set as a device background must be school appropriate. Inappropriate media may not be used as a device background. Presence of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, alcohol, drugs, or gang-related symbols will result in disciplinary action and/or loss of device privileges.

## **Copyright and Plagiarism (Barnwell High School)**

Students are expected to follow all copyright laws as outlined in [Fair Use Doctrine of the United States Copyright Law](#) (Title 17, USC). The distinction between what is fair use and what is infringement in a particular case will not always be clear or easily defined. There is no specific number of words, lines, or notes that may safely be taken without permission.

Acknowledging the source of the copyrighted material does not substitute for obtaining permission. Copyright protects the particular way authors have expressed themselves. The safest course is to get permission from the copyright owner before using copyrighted material.

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. To "Plagiarize" means that you are stealing and passing off the ideas or words of another as one's own. You should never use another person's' work without crediting the source. In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

## **Technology Discipline**

Most tech-related behavior violations are equivalent to "traditional" classroom violations.

- Misusing your device at home is equivalent to misusing your device at school.
- Cutting and pasting without citing sources or putting it into your own words is equivalent to plagiarism.
- Cyber-bullying is equivalent to bullying or harassment.
- Damaging or defacing the device or accessories is equivalent to vandalism or property damage.

In cases where unacceptable use or negligence is suspected, contact your school's administration.

### **School-Based Discipline**

The discipline policies at each school encompass the desired learning environment. Please reference the materials specific to each school or contact the school directly for details.



## **Device Technology User Fee**

Student access to computers is one way that Barnwell 45 enhances the learning opportunities for our students. Use of the devices is a privilege. Students who use a computing device at school are expected to follow Barnwell 45's policies, procedures and practices give in the district documents, Student's Rights and Responsibilities as well as the Technology Handbook for Parents and Students. These are available on the district web site. The student Technology User Fee is \$25 annually and is nonrefundable.

## **Accountability**

### **Legal Title**

Legal title to the device is with the district and shall at all times remain with the district. The student is responsible at all times for the device's appropriate care and use. The device is specific to the student. If a student transfers to another Barnwell 45 school their device will follow them to the new school.

### **Legal Property**

Comply with trademark and copyright laws and all license agreements. Ignorance of the law is not immunity. If you are unsure, ask a teacher or parent. Plagiarism is a violation of the student policy. Give credit to all sources used, whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies, music, and text.

### **Liability**

Chromebook devices will be returned annually. Students remain responsible for the device until it has been verified to be in working order. The parent/guardian/student are responsible for the entire cost of repairs or replacement to computing devices damaged through student misuse, neglect, intentional damage or loss. In case of theft, an official police report will be required.

## **Digital Citizenship: Good to Know**

### **What is Digital Citizenship?**

- Digital Citizenship is a concept that helps students understand how to use technology appropriately in a society full of technology.
- The district expects students to use technology appropriately and responsibly whether in electronic communication or participation.
- The district has electronic precautions in place in order for students to participate safely and securely in this environment and enjoy the rights of a digital world in an educational setting.

## District Responsibilities

- The school will provide Internet, email, and cloud based data storage access to students.
- School staff will help students conduct research and ensure student compliance with the district's [Responsible use Procedures](#).
- Filtering/blocking of inappropriate Internet materials is done at the district level, and the district provides network data storage areas for all students.
- Barnwell School District 45 reserves the right to investigate the inappropriate use of resources and to review, monitor and restrict information stored on or transmitted via Barnwell School District 45-owned equipment and resources.

## Student Responsibilities

Students will abide by the district's [Responsible use Procedures](#) and:

- Contact an administrator about any security issue they encounter.
- Monitor all activity on their personal account(s).
- Report email containing inappropriate or abusive language or questionable subject matter to a teacher or administrator at school.
- When students withdraw from school or transfer to another in-district school, they will return their device to the media specialist or provide the cost of the device.
- If a student is leaving the district, their device must be returned to the school prior to leaving the district or provide the cost of the device.

## Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Talk to your children about the values and standards you expect your children to follow as they use the Internet just as you talk to them about their use of all other media information sources such as television, telephone, movies, radio, etc.
- All district-issued devices contain Internet filters that are enabled at school and at home. Parents are encouraged to monitor student activity at home, especially their Internet use.

## Appropriate Content

All files must be school appropriate. Inappropriate materials include explicit or implicit references to:

- Alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- Gangs
- Obscene language or nudity
- Bullying or harassment
- Discriminatory or prejudicial behavior Monitor Student Use

The parent/guardian must agree to monitor student use at home, and away from school. The best way to keep students safe and on-task is to have a parent/guardian present and involved.

## Suggestions

- Develop a set of rules/expectations for device use at home. Some websites provide parent/child agreements for you to sign.
- Only allow device use in common rooms of the home (e.g. living room or kitchen) and not in bedrooms.
- Demonstrate a genuine interest in what your student is doing on the device. Ask questions and request that they show you his or her work often.

## Health Tips for Parents

The average child in the US now spends an average of 7 hours a day using computers, cell phones, televisions and other electronic devices.

As screen and electronics time increases, time spent on exercise and family activities typically decreases. An increase in screen time has been shown to be linked to an increase in obesity rates.

So here's what you can do to help keep your child safe and healthy as he or she ventures into this new world of electronic education.

1. Limit the amount of time that your child is using the computer outside of schoolwork. The AAP recommends limiting total screen time to 2 hours daily.
2. Be aware of what your child is using the computer for. Know what Internet sites he is visiting and what he is doing on those sites.
3. Keep the bedroom as a screen free area. No televisions, cell phones or computers need to be in a child's bedroom, especially at night.
4. Encourage your child to get plenty of exercise daily.
5. Above all, talk with your child. Discuss what she is doing with her new computer and discuss things that have absolutely nothing to do with computers. Just talk!

## Additional Articles

Healthy Habits for TV, Video Games, and the Internet by <http://kidshealth.org>

Turn Off the TV or Computer and Get Active by <http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au>

## E-Mail, IM and Chat Rooms - Help children stay safer online

- Know who your child is communicating with online.
- Open a family e-mail account to share with younger children.
- Teach your child never to open e-mails from unknown senders and to use settings on IM programs to block messages from people they do not know.
- Be aware of other ways your child may be going online—with cell phones, devices, or from friends' homes or the library.

- Tell your child not to share passwords with anyone but you to help avoid identity theft and cyber bullying.

Help protect children against inappropriate content

- Use the NetSmartz [Internet Safety Pledges](#) to set clear guidelines for going online.
- Report the sexual exploitation or online enticement of a child to [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com).

## **Teach Your Children the Important Rules to Follow.**

- Never accept files or downloads from unknown sources; this includes familiar sources if you were not expecting them. Accepting files or downloads from unknown sources can bring a virus that could harm the device.
- Never give out real name, telephone or cell phone number(s), mailing address, or passwords. Giving away personal information can lead to identity theft or worse.
- Do not post photographs in publicly accessible sites. The settings for ANY social networking profiles should be PRIVATE and new friends are accepted only if they are known to the child AND parent.
- Posting pictures online or sending images can have dangerous consequences.
- Report Cyber bullying to an adult. (Cyber bullying refers to the practice of using technology to harass, or bully, someone else).

## **Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)**

The [Children's Internet Protection Act \(CIPA\)](#) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements on schools or libraries that receive discounts for Internet access or internal connections through the E-rate program.

Barnwell District 45 follows the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act by:

- Blocking or filtering Internet access to materials that are harmful to minors
- Providing instruction in Internet Safety
- Monitoring online activities of minors

## **Contact your teacher if you have questions about any of the following....**

- Troubleshooting
- Always try restarting the device as the first step of troubleshooting.
- At School - If restarting the device does not solve the problem, contact your teacher.

- At Home - If restarting the device does not solve the problem and it is an Internet connectivity problem, contact your Internet service provider. For other problems, contact your teacher when you return to school.
- How the device is used in instruction
- Question about the device
- Cyberbullying
- Inappropriate content
- Proper use of the device

Thank you for partnering with Barnwell School District 45 by agreeing to abide by the [Responsible Use Procedures](#) (RUP) and becoming familiar with this Technology Handbook for Parents and Students.

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