The Catholic Church understands that technology has opened the world of Cyberspace where not only adults but also our children live and learn.

The Catholic Church understands that technology is an educational tool the rapidity of whose development sometimes outstrips the concerns for its effects. The Internet offers a dizzying array of undifferentiated facts, knowledge and wisdom. It is a place of instantaneous long distance connections and multiple sources of information from newsgroups, to chat rooms, instant messaging, list services, audio and video conferencing, etc.

New technologies are often seen as good in themselves without consideration of their far-reaching consequences for individual human beings and for humanity as a whole. We must learn to question not only what we are doing but also why and whether we should be doing it.

While it is true that this technology carries with it the potential for unprecedented good, it also brings the possibility of incredible risks of which the Church is ever conscious. This understanding is especially critical in light of the Church’s responsibility to assist its people in the making of good moral decisions.

With these facts in mind, the Church, nevertheless, also understands that it would not be faithful to its mission should it fail to use telecommunications technology to bring others to Christ. Along with other forms of media, today the Church encourages schools to make wise use of the Internet. In a paper promulgated in February 2002, Archbishop John Foley, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, stated that, “the Internet is relevant to many activities and programs of the Church – evangelization ... catechesis and other kinds of education.” The Pastoral Instruction *Communio et Progressio* spoke of the urgent duty of Catholic schools to train communicators and recipients of social communications in relevant Christian principles (n.107). In the age of the Internet, with its enormous outreach and impact, the need is more urgent than ever. The world has become a global village through telecommunication, and, as a result, technology has become increasingly more necessary as a means of spreading the message of Christ. Effective catechesis depends on the wise use of the latest communication’s technology, and our teachers must continue to develop themselves in the use of technology not only to advance the cause of academic excellence but also to promote and proclaim the Gospel.

Since as Catholic educators and students in Catholic schools, we are called to follow the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, we willingly agree to comply with the provisions of the *Acceptable Use Policy* listed below as an expression of our love of God, neighbor and self.

**APPENDIX II**

**DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT**
ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY
Internet Safety and Computer Equipment Use
Including Related Systems, Software, and Networks

I. Office for Education Responsibilities/Rights
   To create an Acceptable Use Policy for the schools of the Diocese of Bridgeport
   To publish said policy
   To review it annually
   To be free from liability for presence of unacceptable materials
   To comply with State and Federal Regulations
   To cooperate with authorities in criminal investigations
   To be free from liability for financial obligation incurred through unauthorized use of system
   To amend the policy at any time

II. School Responsibilities/Rights
    To oversee resources including scheduling
    To place reasonable restrictions on systems and technology
    To perform routine system maintenance
    To search individual Internet activity with reasonable suspicion
    To own all files on school network
    To be free from liability for presence of unacceptable materials on the school’s system
    To comply with Diocesan, State, Federal regulations
    To provide a filtering system in accordance with CIPA, as protection measures
    To provide opportunities for technological training for staff
    To cooperate with authorities in investigations of criminal activities
    To bypass passwords to determine activity
    To publish student works on its website
    To deny student/staff access

III. Parents'/Guardians’ Responsibilities/Rights
     To see their child’s e-mail file upon request
     To deny their children Internet access
     To prevent the use of their children’s names and pictures on the Internet by the school

IV. Student Privileges/Expectations/Understandings
    To use Internet in distance learning
    To access World Wide Web for educational purposes
    To have individual e-mail accounts to send and receive e-mail
    To receive instruction in technology use
    To have reasonable protection measures
    E-mail or Internet correspondence is not privileged or confidential
    To use Internet to consult experts
    To communicate with other students
    To locate information to meet educational needs
V. **Prohibitions**

- Modifying documents or files without permission
- Playing unauthorized games
- Making purchases
- Conducting commercial or private business
- Personal use – unrelated to appropriate educational purposes
- Political lobbying
- Installing software for personal use
- Installing school software at home without school permission
- Altering, interfering with, dismantling, disengaging Internet
- Installing educational software without Office for Education permission
- Installing stand alone (CD/Diskette) without Office for Education approval
- Illegal activities
- Accessing knowingly inappropriate material
- Downloading large files without permission
- Sending chain letters
- Spamming
- Plagiarizing
- Copyright infringements
- Profane, obscene language/defamation
- Accessing and transmitting pornography
- Accessing information advocating violence or discrimination outside the scope of research under direction of a teacher/supervisor
- Accessing, modifying, erasing, rename, making usable or unusable another’s files or programs
- Modifying, copying, transferring software provided by school, faculty, another student without permission
- Aiding or abetting another student in policy violation
- Introducing or spreading viruses or other harmful programs
- Divulging passwords

VI. **Individual Responsibilities**

- To comply with security measures
- To report illegal activities
- To report improper language or unacceptable activities on the Internet
- To report damage or tampering with equipment or system
- To report violations of privacy

VII. **E-Mail Etiquette**

- Be patient
- Be polite/Capitalize only to highlight important points
- Keep paragraphs short
- Use “Subject Line”
- Include signature