

Rowland Hall-St. Mark's Middle School

Parent Computer Permission Form

We are pleased to offer students of Rowland Hall-St. Mark's School access to the school computer network for electronic mail and the Internet. To gain access to email and Internet, all students must obtain written parental permission and must sign and return this form to the Middle School main office.

Access to email and the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards while exchanging messages with Internet users throughout the world. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goal and objects, students may find ways to access other materials as resources and opportunities for collaboration, outweigh and disadvantages. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored. During school, teachers will often guide students towards appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance that they exercise with television, telephones, movies, radio, and other potentially offensive media.

Access is a privilege-not a right. Access entails responsibility. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. To that end, RHSM supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to apply to access.

Computer Use Rules and Responsibilities

The following rules MUST be followed when working with computers in the Middle School:

1. Academic use of computer always takes priority over non-academic use.
2. Unless otherwise specified by a teacher, computer use during class time is for academic purposes only. This prohibits such uses as, but not limited to, personal email, personal instant messaging, visiting chat rooms, or visiting Internet sites for personal reasons.
3. Keep food and drinks outside the computer lab and away from mobile lab laptops.
4. Always log off after you have finished working on a school computer.
5. Avoid the following misuse of computer technology:
 - Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
 - Using obscene language
 - Harassing, insulting, or attacking others
 - Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks
 - Failing to return a mobile lab laptop to the teacher at the end of class
 - Unauthorized alteration and/or installation of software
 - "Hacking" or attempting to gain access to unauthorized area of the network
 - Violating copyright laws
 - Using another person's password
 - Trespassing in another person's folders, work, or files
 - Interfering with other student's work
 - Intentionally wasting limited resources
 - Employing the network for commercial purposes
 - Not following rules and procedures established by the lab manager or teacher

