BLUFFVIEW MONTESSORI SCHOOL
POLICY 512 ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR TECHNOLOGY - STUDENTS

I. PURPOSE
This policy outlines the appropriate use of computers and other classroom technologies for students.

II. GUIDELINES
A. Definitions
1. "Surfing" is the term for unstructured searches, or just exploring to see what is out there.
2. "Harmful to minors" is a term defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(7)) as any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
   a. the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find, taking the material as a whole and with respect to minors, is designed to appeal to, or is designed to pander to, the prurient interest;
   b. depicts, describes, or represents, in a manner patently offensive with respect to minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, an actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual act, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals or post-pubescent female breast; and
   c. taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

B. Responsibility
1. Compliance with this policy is the responsibility of all students and staff.
2. Bluffview Montessori staff, as directed by the Head of School, shall maintain this policy.

III. POLICY
A. Internet Use
1. All students are required to sign and abide by the Bluffview Montessori Student Acceptable Use Policy agreement which outlines the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines. It will be assumed that parents/guardians are in agreement with this policy unless otherwise specified in writing. Students of parents who opt out of this agreement will not be allowed to use the Internet or other applicable technology at school.

2. All use of the Internet during school hours must be in support of
education and research, and consistent with the educational objectives of Bluffview Montessori School. Users must have a well-defined, documented reason for accessing the Internet. No "surfing" is allowed. Students must have a topic, or subject, to be researched; and it must be directly related to a given assignment from one or more teachers. There should be adult supervision while any student is researching on the Internet.

3. Bluffview's Internet system has a limited educational purpose and is not intended to serve as a public access service or a public forum. Bluffview Montessori School has the right to place restrictions on its use to assure that use of Bluffview's computer system is in accord with its limited educational purpose. Student use of Bluffview's computers, network and Internet services will be governed by this policy, the related guidelines and the student disciplinary process.

4. The Internet provides students with the opportunity to communicate with people throughout the world. Access to this information and resources brings with it challenges. Bluffview Montessori School may not be able to technologically limit access to services through the Internet connection to only those that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum, access to the Internet will open classrooms and students to electronic information resources which have not been screened by educators. Bluffview utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students and to block/filter access to pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. At the discretion of the Head of School and/or Technology Committee, the web content filter may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The web content filter may be modified at any time, but will not be disabled while students may be using the Network, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. The Head of School or Technology Committee may temporarily or permanently unblock access to sites containing appropriate material, if filtered. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the web content filter.
The Head of School or Technology Committee may disable the web content filter to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Parents/Guardians are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services on the Internet that Bluffview Montessori School has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume risks by consenting to allow their child to participate in the use of the Internet.

5. Students will not be allowed to access social media for personal use, including e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications, but shall be permitted to access social media for educational use in accordance with their teacher’s approved plan for such use.

6. Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for education. Bluffview Montessori School reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of Bluffview Montessori School and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

7. Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding appropriate technology use and online safety and security. Bluffview Montessori School does not sanction any use of the Internet that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

8. Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them.

9. Users granted access to the Internet through the Bluffview's computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for uses of the Internet not authorized by this policy.

10. Bluffview Montessori School designates the Head of School and the Technology Committee as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy.
B. Other technology

Other classroom technology would include, but not be limited to: cameras, video equipment, electronic whiteboards, iPads, cell/smart phones, portable word processors, projectors (overhead, LCD), televisions, DVD/VHS players. Accompanying guidelines will be developed by the Technology Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.