

Form 801

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN PERMISSION
FOR UNRESTRICTED INTERNET ACCESS**

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child has requested unrestricted access to the Vermilion School District's Internet connection through LEECA. The school district is now able to offer this access to all students given the written consent of a parent and cooperating teacher.

The Internet is an international network of networks and is the communication and information highway of tomorrow. Through the network your child will have access to hundreds of databases, libraries, and computer services from all over the world. The Internet consists of over 10,000 computer networks in over 50 countries. Please note that the Internet is an association of diverse communication and information networks and some material may be objectionable. We do not condone or encourage access to such material. Furthermore, all attempts are being made to limit such access. It is not possible for us to completely limit access to all materials.

Part of the school district's responsibility in preparing our students for the 21st century is to provide them access to the tools they will be using as adults. We believe that use of this global information network is one of those tools. We accept responsibility for teaching your child about his/her role as a "network citizen" and the code of ethics involved with this new global community.

Attached to this letter is an important document: The Terms and Conditions for Use of the Internet with an application for your child to read and sign stating his/her agreement to follow the District's Electronic Network Access Policy. This application requires your signature and that of a cooperating teacher.

Please review these materials carefully with your child before signing the required application form.

**VERMILION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
UNRESTRICTED INTERNET ACCESS**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR USE OF THE NETWORK

Please read the following carefully before signing this document.

Unrestricted Internet access is now available to students and teachers at Vermilion Local Schools. That access is being offered as part of the educational program in the Vermilion Local School District, Lake Erie Educational Computer Association (LEECA), Ohio Department of Education (OD), and the National Science Foundation (NSF). We are very pleased to bring this access to the Vermilion Local School District and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources to both students and teachers. Our goal in providing this service to teachers and students is to promote educational excellence in the Vermilion Local Schools by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication.

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. Students and teachers have access to: electronic mail communication with people all over the world; information and news from NASA, as well as the opportunity to correspond with the scientists at NASA and other research institutions; public domain and shareware software of all types; discussion groups on a plethora of topics ranging from Chinese culture to the environment to music to politics; access to many university Library Catalogs, the Library of Congress, CARL and ERIC.

With unrestricted access to computers and people all over the world also comes the availability of material that may not be considered of educational value in the context of the school setting. We firmly believe that the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility that users may procure material not consistent with the educational goals of the Vermilion Local School District.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies and regional and state networks. In addition, the smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end-users that must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so that you are aware of the responsibilities you are about to acquire. In general this requires efficient, ethical, and legal utilization of the network resources. If a user violates any of these provisions, his or her access with the Vermilion Local School District and LEECA will be terminated, and future access could possibly be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document is (are) legally binding and indicate(s) the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the terms and conditions carefully and understand(s) their significance.

INTERNET – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Acceptable Use – The purpose of the NSFNET, (the backbone network to the Internet) is supporting research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and opportunities for collaborative work. Access must be in support of education and research and consistent with the education objectives of the Vermilion Local School District. (Games and MUDs are not considered an educational use of the Internet. Time and bandwidths are costly. Therefore, no games or MUDs may be played when logged in over modem or through the school connection.) Use of other organizations, networks, or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Use for commercial activities by for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.
2. Privileges – The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. (Each student who has access will discuss with a school faculty member the proper use of the network.) The system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, administration, faculty, and staff of the Vermilion Local School District may request the system administrators to deny, revoke, or suspend access.

3. Security – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you can identify a security problem on the Network, you must notify a system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Do not use another individual's account and never give your password to another user. Attempts to log in to the system as any other user will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the Internet.
4. Vandalism – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user or any of the above listed agencies or other networks that are connected to Internet, or the NSFNET backbone. This includes, but is not limited to the uploading or creation of computer viruses, destroying other user's files, hacking, etc.
5. Netiquette – You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - Be polite. Do not become abusive in your messages to others. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
 - Illegal activities are strictly forbidden. Do not reveal any personal information about yourself or other's mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - Do not overcrowd the district's mailbox. Archive messages in personal machines and delete from the district's mailbox. Do not use the network in such a way that you would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
 - All communication and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
6. The Vermilion Local School District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Vermilion Local School District will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The Vermilion Local School District denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
7. Updating Use Information – LEECA may occasionally require new registration and account information from the district to continue service. Currently, there are no user fees for this service.
8. Acceptance of Terms and Conditions – All terms and conditions as stated in this document are applicable to the Vermilion Local School District, LEECA, and all servers connected through LEECA. These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersede all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio, and the United States of America.

INTERNET APPLICATION

COOPERATING TEACHER: (Must be signed if the applicant is a student.) I have read the Terms and Conditions and agree to promote this agreement with the student. Because the student may use the network for individual work or in the context of another class, I cannot be held responsible for the student's use of the network. As the cooperating teacher, I do agree to instruct the student on acceptable use of the network and proper network etiquette and for assuring that the student understands that if they misuse the network they will be denied access. Particular concerns include issues of privacy, copyright infringements, e-mail etiquette, computer viruses, and intended use of Telnet resources and World Wide Web.

TEACHER: _____
(Please Print)

TEACHER'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: __/__/__

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: (If you are under the age of 18 a parent or guardian must also read and sign this agreement.) As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the Terms and Conditions for Internet access. However, I also recognize it is impossible for Vermilion Schools to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold them responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting. I hereby give my permission to the school to allow Internet access by my child and certify that the information contained on this form is correct.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN: _____
(Please Print)

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: __/__/__

STUDENT: I understand and will abide by the above Terms and Conditions for use of the Internet. I further understand that violation of the regulation abuse is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and/or appropriate legal action.

STUDENT: _____
(Please Print)

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: __/__/__