Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy provides an electronic communications network (hereinafter the "Scholars network") that allows students internal access to Scholars Academy information resources and external access to the Internet. Access to the Scholars network and the Internet is a privilege provided to students solely to support student education and research, and is therefore subject to certain restrictions as may be set forth by the Board of Directors or the school director. The provisions of this regulation apply to all student users of the Scholars network and include all aspects of student network use.

The Internet is a global network that is in a constant state of change, and it is difficult to predict what information will be available from day to day. On a global network, it is impossible to control all materials and information. The information accessed by students may be controversial and offensive to certain students and parents. The Scholars Academy does not condone the access to or use of such information and takes precautions to inhibit access to them. However, the benefits of the valuable information and interaction available on the worldwide network far outweigh the possibility that users may procure material that is not consistent with educational goals. Students will, therefore, be given the privilege of using the Internet along with the responsibility of using it properly. The responsibilities accompanying freedom of speech and access to information will be taught to all student users. The School shall inform student users and the parents of minor students that the School cannot completely control the content of the available information.

Acceptable Use
I. Acceptable Use: The Scholars network will be used responsibly, efficiently, ethically and in compliance with all local, state and US Federal law. Transmission of any material in violation of any US or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.

Unacceptable uses include, but are not limited to the following:
- Not complying with copyright/trademark laws
- Using peer-to-peer file-sharing programs
- Accessing email, chat rooms or social media, except for those set up or approved by school directors or the director of technology.
- Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable. Use of product advertisement or political lobbying is also prohibited.
- Accessing or disseminating threatening or obscene material
- Forwarding communications of a personal or school matter without the prior consent of the author.
- Using statements which are bullying or harassing, language which includes vulgarity or profanity, and/or degradation of others based on their race, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, and political or religious beliefs.
- Establishing unauthorized network devices, including a router, gateway, or remote dial-in access server; or a computer set up to act like such a device.
- Engaging in network packet sniffing or snooping.

- Operating network servers of any sort in violation of ITS guidelines.
- Setting up a system to appear like another authorized system on the network.
- Use of another user's User ID without his or her authorization;
- Accessing or transmitting information that belongs to another user or for which no authorization has been granted;
- Any attempt to make unauthorized changes to information stored on School's computer systems;
- Unauthorized copying of information stored on School's computer systems;
- Tapping phone or network lines in violation of any federal or state law;
- Any action that jeopardizes the availability or integrity of any School computing, communication, or information resource;
- Use of IT resources that interferes with work of other students, employees, or the normal operation of the School's computing systems;
- Any attempt to bypass the School's IT security systems;
- Copying or distributing without authorization software licensed to School;
- Use of School-owned IT resources for commercial purposes; and
- Use of electronic mail messages or Internet pages that constitute invasion of privacy, harassment, defamation, threats, intimidation, unwarranted annoyance or embarrassment, or discrimination based on race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

Network Etiquette
Users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.
These include, but are not limited to, the following:
     1. Be polite. Use good character and appropriate language.
     2. Do not reveal your personal address or phone number or those of others in social communication situations.

Penalties for Unacceptable Use
Students who violate any of the above Acceptable Use policies and guidelines can be subject to the following:
- Suspension or removal of user privileges
- Disciplinary consequences set forth in the Student Code of Conduct, which may include long-term suspension or exclusion from the school
- Possible prosecution or civil penalties under federal or state law

Disciplinary actions for staff or faculty who violate the above policies and guidelines will be determined by the school director and/or the Board of Directors according to the type and severity of the violation.

II. Privilege: Access is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in disciplinary action by the school directors.

III. Privacy/Monitoring: Files stored on the Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy server, electronic mail, and other school equipment is not private and may be subject to inspection and/or monitoring. Users of the Internet/intranet are hereby informed that there can be no expectation of privacy, as designated

Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy staff reserve authority to monitor and examine all system activities to ensure their proper use.

IV. Disclaimer: Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services it provides. Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its own negligence, errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's risk. Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Internet Safety
It is the policy of the Scholars Academy to:
- prevent access where feasible/practical by minors to inappropriate material via the internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications.
- prevent unauthorized use and other unlawful activity
- prevent unauthorized use, disclosure or dissemination of personal information regarding minors
- comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-544 and 47 USC 254(h)].

1. To the extent practical, Metrolina Regional Scholars Academy uses filtering mechanisms that deny access to material that is obscene, lewd, indecent, inappropriate for, or harmful to minors.

2. As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, all material which is considered obscene or child pornography, along with any materials deemed harmful to minors will be blocked.

3. The faculty and staff of the Scholars Academy will educate and monitor students using the network and the internet. All staff are responsible for reporting non-compliance to the school Director.

4. Under the approval and supervision of the School Director, filtering systems may be removed or minimalized to allow for legitimate research of other purposes deemed lawful.

Adopted November 26, 2012