

April 19, 2010

Dear New, Returning Families and Students,

RE: Technology for the 2010-2011 School Year, IMPORTANT INFO and REQUIREMENTS

Technology is a fundamental necessity at the MSSM and we are endeavoring to upgrade and maintain as human and fiscal resources will permit. Below you will find some recommendations as well as requirements for this coming school year.

- 1) It is highly recommended that you bring a personal, non-networked printer for use when Lab and Learning Center printers are unavailable; and
- 2) You may bring only two computers for use at MSSM and one, both or neither can be linked to the MSSM network (bring two systems only, shared between one IP address); and
- 3) It is recommended that you consider SKYPE at skype.com as an alternative to expensive phone calls back and forth (SKYPE now supports both audio and video); and
- 4) It is recommended that you consider open-source software analogs rather than paying for expensive packages such as MS-Office. There are analogous software programs such as GIMP compared to Photoshop™ OpenOffice compared to MS Office or perhaps even Sun Microsystems Star Office. Many of these are totally free to educators and students. Just download, install, and use; and
- 5) It is recommended that families purchase insurance for their student's personal property while they are at school (by law, MSSM is not responsible for students property); and
- 6) It is highly recommended that you bring, adhere to or forego the following as stated below:
 - a) 2 surge-protected, Power strips (one for computer systems, one for peripherals); and
 - b) 1 ream of paper for personal printing (the school provides paper for only academic classes and not necessarily for all homework assignments); and
 - c) 1 functional, 6', CAT-5, Ethernet Cable (wireless is not guaranteed, so have your Ethernet cable available for your room port, if you want one built here, the student ACM will oblige at \$1/ft. to any length as a fundraiser); and

- d) Students may NOT have any software on their system that allows peer-to-peer uploading or downloading, nor may they have BitTorrent software installed while at school; and
 - e) Students must keep ALL electronics on shelves, tables and off the floor; and
 - f) Contact with personal servers outside of the school will generally not be allowed as they present security breaches and circumvention of federally required security programs. Access to ALL sites utilizing the school network is under the direction of the Director of IT in conjunction with Academic and Residential Life.
 - g) Students may NOT bring personal routers, switches or servers nor use their computers as such (we hope to supply school authorized devices for supervised gaming sessions); and
 - h) Students may NOT bring data, programs, videos, audio, text, or graphic works that have been obtained in a manner that breaks copyright laws; and
 - i) Students are required to password protect their computers and realize that if they do not do so and allow other to use their systems in a delinquent or illegal manner, they will be held responsible; and
 - j) Devices such as data phones or handheld data devices may or may not be installed on the MSSM Network (the education's value and propriety of these remains under study).
- 7) The school community needs you to realize that connectivity to the Internet is a monitored privilege that can be revoked at any time without lengthy debate and discussion. First and foremost, the MSSM community must have a LAN/WAN and Internet connectivity that is unhindered and as efficient and effective as possible. Students found in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy regarding computers, the LAN or technology will find their personal system's connectivity revoked immediately without warning for an initial period of no less than 30 consecutive days while school is in session. Repeated infractions will result in lengthier times of removal up to and including sending the student's computer or digital equipment from the campus.
- 8) It is strongly suggested that students and parents read the Acceptable Use Policy very carefully and have a clear understanding of expectations before signing. Parents and students will sign the AUP while at MSSM on move-in day. No student will be allowed on

the MSSM network with an account of any kind until the AUP is signed by both the students and parent/legal guardian.

9) We are especially cognizant of breaking copyright laws by downloading, uploading, or having in your possession digital data that breaks copyright laws. This could cost the MSSM its Internet feed and therefore will be dealt with stringently. Other penalties from local, state, or federal agencies may additionally apply to cyber crimes and the MSSM will cooperate fully with any agency that is within its legal rights to request log information for any account on our network that has been indicated in a cyber crime of any type.

10) Students should NOT expect Internet Connectivity within the first two weeks of school.

11) Computer Gaming whether Internet, LAN, or single computer has come under close scrutiny on a national level relative to the time-sink that it may create for the academic students. To that end, Academics, Residential Life and Technology have entered into the following agreement:

In order to help students integrate themselves successfully and without distractions into the academic and residential aspects of MSSM, students should leave all electronic gaming devices at home. Students will be allowed to bring electronic gaming devices to MSSM after the Thanksgiving recess provided they are in good academic and residential standing. In addition, online gaming will be closely monitored during these first few weeks of the semester. A desktop and/or laptop may be brought for academic purposes.

12) Antivirus software is paramount here in the residential setting. A virus coming through on the Internet creates a problem not only for MSSM, but potentially for our companion school RSU #39. Every computer will be scanned prior to going online and every computer here will run two pieces of antiviral software of our choice:

- a) Avast!™ (home edition) found at Avast.com
- b) ThreatFire™ (personal edition) found at pctools.com

We have found that these free editions serve us very well. You may have a favorite anti-virus of choice, but while attached to our network, these are the two that will be run. They act in concert with each other and act in differing modalities relative to discovering and repairing problems. They also automatically update themselves. In the past, students have chosen to turn such programs off, however, we will check from time to time unannounced, and failure to have the required software up and running will result in being disconnected from the MSSM network.

13) We will be transferring to a gmail host for MSSM mail. This will, in general,

be transparent to the user and accounts already in place.

We want technology and computing to be supportive of the students' path through the school. We will continue our efforts at upgrading and refining the technological infrastructure while at the same time monitoring student use of technology so that it does not become obsessive or all consuming in nature. However, no one will argue that to be a literate person of the 21st century one must understand how to use effectively as well as judiciously all technology available to you.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at dr.david.brown@gmail.com or at 207-554-9925 (school cell phone).

Cordially,

David W. Brown, Ph.D.
Director of IT/Chair of CS