

GHS Technology Expectations

Technology is an important part of our lives. We believe it provides amazing opportunities for academic success, and the use of technology will prepare students of Germantown High School for the world they will live in after high school.

We believe:

- People who act responsibly will have more opportunities in life, will be more popular, more respected, and will enjoy more freedom.
- The internet and the digital world have the same behavioral and social expectations as the non-digital world. Students who are mature and responsible in one will enjoy rewards in both. Students who are unable to behave responsibly in one will hurt their friendships, their opportunities, and their reputation both online and offline.
- Since the online and the offline worlds have the same expectations, misconduct online should be treated the same as misconduct offline and will have the same consequences.

What it looks like to be a responsible digital citizen

- Take responsibility for the care of your belongings. Germantown High School is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Your teacher is responsible for your education, so he or she will decide which activities you can use technology on and which you should do without technology. Respect his or her decision.
- Technology is here to help you. It is rude and disrespectful to use technology to ignore your learning or the teacher speaking to you in class. Texting, emailing, doing homework for other classes, etc. during class is inappropriate.
- If class activities call for the use of technology, you are responsible to participate. If you don't have the needed device, let your teacher know.
- Not having access to a device is not an excuse for not participating. Teachers will be happy to help you find alternative ways to do the task, and you are responsible to let them know if there is a problem.
- If the school or someone else lends you a device to use for class, care for it better than if it were your own. Respect the trust they placed in you.
- You are responsible to provide your own internet connection, whether that be your cell plan or use of approved wireless connections designated for student use. It would be rude to use networks designated for teacher use, because that uses up all the IP addresses and leaves teachers unable to do their own work.
- Mature people never use technology as an excuse to do things online that would be rude to do in person: harassing, bullying, checking, mocking... If it is rude offline, it is rude online.

- The use of technology is a privilege designed to help you learn and grow. Stealing or “borrowing” intellectual work does not help you learn and is a betrayal of that trust.
- You are responsible for where you go and what you store with technology. Accessing or storing inappropriate materials is unprofessional and will be considered misuse of your technology privileges.
- You are responsible to avoid bothering people with mass emails, spam, etc.
- It is your responsibility to use technology during school only for school. If it’s not school related, do it at home, on your own time.
- Respect people’s privacy. It is unacceptable to take pictures of or record (video or audio) people without their permission.
- When you’re at school, behave in a professional manner. It is unprofessional to use technology to express profanity or other inappropriate content.
- Remember that the internet is worldwide. Our highest concern is your safety, but we need your help. It is your responsibility to never post anything that could put yourself or others in danger. Even small personal details can be used for phishing, stalking, etc.
- You are responsible to help guard the safety and privacy of other students as well as your own. Don’t share anything online about a person that you don’t have their permission to share.
- We are each responsible to only use technology in ways that will not damage the network, other devices on the network, etc.