

Teaching Security

Cybersecurity Ethics Agreement

Background

In this class, you will begin learning how cybersecurity experts secure and defend complex computer systems. This sometimes involves learning about techniques and tools a malicious hacker might use to attack such a system or steal confidential data.

It is up to you to use this knowledge ethically. The agreement below is a commitment to use the skills you learn in this class responsibly, to protect computer systems and their users and not to harm them.

Agreement

I agree that:

- 1) **I will use the cybersecurity knowledge and skills I gain in this class responsibly, for the protection of computing and information systems and the data they store or transmit.** Specifically, I will:
 - Fully inform anyone who is allowing me access to a system they own or control, anyone I am providing cybersecurity assistance to, or anyone else who might be affected by my cybersecurity-related actions about:
 - What I am doing,
 - Why I am doing it, and
 - What the positive and negative consequences might be.
 - Tell my teacher about any security vulnerabilities I discover during class activities, or in using my cybersecurity skills outside of class.
 - Follow my school's or district's technology use/computer use policy (unless I am completing class activities where my cybersecurity teacher gives permission for a specific action that violates the policy).
 - Follow my school's student code of conduct and obey the law when using my cybersecurity knowledge and skills.

- 2) **I will not use my cybersecurity knowledge and skills in a way that damages any system or data, nor in a way that harms any person or organization.** Specifically, I will *not*:
 - Share any private data/information I discover during class activities, or in applying my cybersecurity knowledge outside of class.
 - Share information about any security vulnerabilities I discover, except as instructed by my teacher.
 - Attempt security attacks or actions against any device in the school network unless *specifically* told to do so by my cybersecurity teacher.*
 - Attempt security attacks or actions against any device or system I do not own or do not have explicit permission to perform those *specific* attacks or actions against.*

- Give assistance or advice to anyone outside the context of my cybersecurity class about how to perform security attacks or actions against any device or system that I or they do not personally own.*

* Restricted security attacks and actions might include:

- Probing or performing a scan for security vulnerabilities on a device or system.
- Attempting to access, or attempting to root or elevate access privileges on, a device or system.
- Attempting to access, copy, alter, delete, or block access to data on a device or system.
- Any other action taken to interfere with the integrity or accessibility of a device or system.

3) **When making use of my cybersecurity knowledge and skills, I will exercise forethought and care, to prevent my actions from causing unintentional harm.** Specifically, I will *not*:

- Share my cybersecurity knowledge with anyone who I know or suspect intends to use it to cause damage or harm to devices, systems, digital data, persons, or organizations.
- Misrepresent my cybersecurity expertise, nor my authority to take cybersecurity-related actions or give cybersecurity advice.

I understand that violating this agreement will result in disciplinary action by my school, and could also result in civil or criminal penalties.

Student Name: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____