

IMPORTANT- PLEASE READ

Digital Learner Release & Opt Out Message

Background:

In order to be an effective institution of educational opportunity, The Hillside Public Schools is proud to announce that we have gone digital. We have adopted Google Apps for Education, which is a suite of programs that will allow our students to learn, create, research, present, and construct their own knowledge through collaboration on both local and global levels.

The rigorous Technology Standards¹ set forth by The State of New Jersey in 2014 have provided us with guidelines that have helped to broaden our learning opportunities and approach education through a global lens. Our goal is to give students every opportunity to develop a skill set that will serve them well in any career, and provide them with the foundation needed to be successful in positions that have not even been created yet.

Students are expected to collaborate with classrooms from around the world, choose their own learning paths, construct their own knowledge, and gather feedback from others to improve upon their ideas. We have developed a plan to harness the power of the internet, with the main objective always being to provide students with every learning opportunity, while trying our best to protect our students from inappropriate content.

Our Program:

From first grade and up, all students will be issued their own district email accounts. Student accounts will also be created on educational websites, which will help our students meet the Technology Standards. We have researched and compiled a collection of over 700 educational sites which will support our vision of having all students technology literate by the end of 8th grade.

Students 13 and under need parental permission to use sites that require a user to create an account. Creating accounts will allow your child to save his/her work and progress, collaborate with others, and create and share their work with their peers. Signing the form provided below indicates that you have read this message and grant permission for The Hillside Public Schools to create educational accounts for your child. In addition, your child may post his/her work for feedback, where age appropriate, in accordance with the standards.

¹ "New Jersey Student Learning Standards - State.NJ.us." 2014. 10 Jun. 2016
<<http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/2014/tech/>>

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As you know, social media continues to play an increasingly important role in our everyday lives. By signing off on this document, you also provide permission for The Hillside Public Schools to use photos/images/videos of your child for purposes such as celebrating achievements and publicizing education events, as deemed appropriate by teachers and administration. Such use may include display in the district website, Facebook, Edmodo, Google Classroom, and Twitter pages, as well as other educational sites used for instructional purposes. Although the school or classroom may be identified, and that adults appearing in photos/images/videos may be named, your child's name or other personally identifiable information will not be used with any photo/image/video. However, one of the Technology Standards requires students to post their work online, to solicit feedback from a global audience. In situations like this, students may post their names and work, but the postings would be on sites used for educational purposes only.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35, the Hillside Public Schools will not release any personally identifiable information without consent from a parent/guardian. By definition from the State, personally identifiable information includes student names, photo or image, residential addresses, email address, phone numbers, and locations/times of class trips. Potential dangers associated with the posting of personally identifiable information on a website exist, since global access to the Internet does not allow us to control who may access such information. As you may know, any photos/images/videos posted on any web site can be downloaded and reprinted by various news organizations, including print, electronic and broadcast media. Therefore, the BOE is released from any liability arising from use of your child's photos/images/videos.

If you object to this agreement and wish to opt out of having your child complete digital work, use internet devices in the classroom, do not want your child to be photographed, and do not wish for an image of your child to be published, you have the right to opt out. You may do so by submitting the below form and indicating that you do not grant permission for your child's name, photograph, or any other personal identifiers to be published on any of the above mentioned websites. Additionally, you may do so at any time by writing a letter to the principal of your child's school indicating that you have rescinded your consent. Emails, voicemails, and verbal requests will not be accepted. In the event your child fails to return the required form, they will not be permitted to participate in the Digital Learner program.

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Please check one of the following choices:

I/We GRANT permission for my child's name/photo/image and all other personal identifiers to be published on the school/district's public Internet sites and any other form of print/electronic media and/or print/electronic outlets utilized by the District, including those sites used as part of the Digital Learner program.

I/We DO NOT GRANT permission for the use of my child's name/image in any print or electronic media, including the Internet. I understand that this does not include the use of my child's name/image in school-distributed materials, such as programs for performances, yearbook, or school newspapers.

Student's Name (please print) _____ **School** _____ **GR** _____

Signature of Parent/Caregiver or Student if over 18 years old _____

Relationship to Student _____ **Date** _____

The consent is valid for one school year and such consent must be obtained on a yearly basis. If you wish to rescind this agreement, you may do so at any time in writing by sending a letter to the principal of your child's school, and such rescission takes effect upon receipt by the school.

If you have any questions about our plans to expand the educational technology opportunities for our students, don't hesitate to contact Kristy Weaver, Educational Data Specialist (908) 352-7664 x6709 or kweaver@hillsidek12.org