

Dear Families:

Throughout the 2010-2011 school year, our class will be using technology to enhance learning and prepare students for future challenges. Many of these technologies require students to publish to the Internet. These include the use of blogs, podcasts, and digital photography.

Blogs

A Weblog, or blog as they are commonly called, is a special type of Web page that can be created and easily updated using a Web browser. Each new entry has its own date stamp. Each entry has a comments section where visitors to the blog may leave comments for the author. For example, students in our class will respond to prompts and discuss quality literature within our class blog. Our Class Blogs will be found at <http://kidblog.org/MsPalmersClass/>. This site provides privacy safety features.

- Teachers have administrative control over all student blogs and student accounts.
- Comment privacy settings block unsolicited comments from outside sources.
- Kidblog does not collect any personal information from teachers or students.

Having a real audience is one of the key components to this program. In addition to receiving comments from their classmates, our class will receive comments from other classes who are invited to visit our web pages. We anticipate arranging for students in other parts of the country to visit our blogs and comment on our writing. Parents are also invited to visit the blogs and respond to the writing.

Podcasts

A podcast is a digital audio and/or video recording published on the Internet and available for downloading. For example, select student presentations will be published to the class website via podcasts. Our Podcast page can be found at <http://bepalmer.podbean.com/>. All audio and video productions are uploaded by me and, as subscriber to the site, all comments must be approved by me in order for them to go public.

Digital Photography

A digital photograph is a still picture that can be stored electronically and published to the Internet. Students may post pictures of class activities, student work, and special events in their blog. Student may also make video productions in which their image will be shown.

Security

Our use of the aforementioned technologies has been designed to minimize risk to your child. All student blogs, podcasts, and any other published work will be closely monitored by me and will be published online only after I give my approval. Students will be required to refrain from sharing personally identifying information such as last name, address, phone number, age, etc.

Permission

Before your child may start blogging, podcasting, or appearing in our slideshows, we are asking for you and your child to discuss and sign this form. Please keep the second copy for your future reference and return the form to Ms Palmer as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms Palmer at 920-533-8032 or by email at bpalmer@csd.k12.wi.us. I am looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,
Ms Palmer

Blogging Guidelines/Podcast & Photo Consent

1. Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their posts. You agree not to post or give out your family name, password, user name, email address, home address, city, country or other information that could help someone locate or contact you in person. You may share your interests, ideas and preferences.
2. Students agree to never log in as another student.
3. Students using blogs are expected to treat blogspaces as classroom spaces. Speech that is inappropriate for class is not appropriate for your blog. While we encourage students to have discussions with other bloggers, we also expect that they will be respectful and represent our school in a positive way.
4. Blogs are to be a place for students to give their opinions. However, they are first and foremost a tool for learning, and students will be expected to follow the same rules we have for classroom discussions.
5. Blogs are a way for students to share their writing with real audiences. Most visitors to your blog who leave comments will leave respectful, helpful messages. If you receive a comment that makes you feel uncomfortable or is not respectful, tell your teacher right away. Do not respond to the comment.
6. Students who do not follow these guidelines may lose their opportunity to take part in the blogging activities.

Please sign and return one copy of this letter and keep the other for your information.

I have read and understood these blogging guidelines. I agree to follow them.

I also give permission for digital images and recordings of me to be published to the Internet.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____