Technology can become the "wings" that will allow the educational world to fly farther and faster than ever before - if we will allow it.

(Jenny Arledge)

Technology, Computer and Network Facilities
Responsible Use Policy

The American Nicaraguan School is committed to the goal of having technology, computers and network facilities used in a responsible, efficient, ethical, educational and legal manner in accordance with the mission of ANS.

Our beliefs:

- The primary purpose of the ANS network is to support students and teachers in the process of teaching and learning and to support the business operations of ANS.

- The computers and Internet are essential to learning.

- The RUP should be like any other rules in the school. It is there and the expectation is that it is respected and followed (without being signed).

- In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of digital citizenship.

- Students' right to free speech applies to communication on the Internet. The ANS network is considered a limited forum, similar to the school newspaper, and therefore the school may restrict a student's speech for valid educational reasons.

Acceptable uses of the network are activities that support teaching and learning. Network users are encouraged to use technology, computers and the Internet for purposes that meet their individual educational and professional needs.

Acceptable uses of technology, computers and the network include, but are not limited to:

- ANS online library *(http://library.ans.edu.ni/)*
- Documents processing and other productivity software
- E-mail
- Accessing Internet resources such as web sites, cloud applications and other online tools such as Powerschool.

Unacceptable uses of computers and the network include, but are not limited to:

- Accessing Internet resources or visiting web sites deemed inappropriate by the staff and administrators of ANS.
- Violating the privacy rights of students and employees of ANS.
- Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to computer systems or files
- Copying print, software, music, or video for use in violation of United States or Nicaraguan copyright or intellectual property law.
- Inappropriate content in e-mail, other documents or online postings.
- Pretending to be someone else.
- Sending out bulk e-mail.
- Using profanity, obscenity, or other language that may be offensive to another user.
- Using the network for financial gain or for intentionally spreading computer viruses.
- Downloading, storing, or printing graphics, videos, files or messages that are profane, obscene, or that use language that offends or tends to degrade others.
- Taking and/or publishing digital images that are inappropriate, embarrassing or harassing to other students or ANS employees.
- Recording or transmitting audio or video at school without written permission.
- Intentionally bypassing or try to bypass the school's Internet filter.

Violations of the Responsible Use Policy

Violations of this policy may result in loss of network access as well as other disciplinary or legal action. Students' violation of this policy shall be subject to the consequences as indicated within this policy as well as other appropriate discipline which includes, but is not limited to:

- Use of ANS network only under direct supervision (which may require the student to install software that allows school officials to monitor ALL student computer activity while on campus)

- Suspension from school

- Legal action and prosecution by the authorities

- Financial compensation for all damages caused to school equipment

The particular consequences for violations of this policy shall be determined by the school administrators.

Online safety tips for students:

- Students should keep all personal contact information about themselves or other people private. Personal contact information includes address, telephone, or school address.

- Students should not disclose information that could help someone identify them or begin to build a "profile" of them. This includes hair color, siblings, hobbies, neighborhood information, etc.

- Students should never agree to meet with someone they have met online.

- Students should promptly disclose to a trusted adult (parent, teacher or other school employee) any message received that is inappropriate or makes the student feel uncomfortable.

- Students should always keep their passwords private, sharing them only with their parents or teachers.