# Antlers Public Library
## Computer Use and Internet Policy

The Antlers Public Library has several computers for use by the public for no charge. The public computers offer Internet access and popular computer programs for word processing, spreadsheets, and photo editing. The computer usage is free, but printing using the library's printers is not. Please see the Additional Services policy for charges.

**Who may use the public computers?**

- Library membership is not required for computer use.
- Patrons must be 18 or older for unrestricted use of the computers. Proof of age may be requested.
- Minors 14 -17 may use the computers with a parent or legal guardian-signed permission form. Permission forms are available at the front desk and must be signed in person (student and parent) at the library.
- All minors may use the computers if they have a parent or legal guardian in the library during use.
- Students may only use the installed (non-Internet-based) programs without adult supervision or signed permission forms for school assignments.
- Limit of 2 persons per computer.
- Files may be accessed from most storage mediums.
- No programs may be installed or downloaded onto the computer.
- The library staff is available to assist patrons with basic computer and Internet use but cannot provide instruction in using particular software applications or websites.
- Transmission of any material in violation of any U.S. or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following: copyright material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Users will not access sites with material deemed "harmful to minors" (O.S. 21 Supp. 2000, 1040, 75-77).

Like Internet access, the use of the public computers is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Library personnel will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. Also, library personnel may close access at any time. The library staff or board may deny, revoke, or suspend specific users at any time.

**Can I access the Internet?**

Internet access is available on the public computers and through the wireless network. We are very pleased to bring this access and believe the Internet offers vast, diverse, and unique resources. It is also important to remember that not all Internet sites should be considered valuable or reliable.

The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. Library personnel will deem what is inappropriate use, and their decision is final. Also, library personnel may close access at any time as may be required. The library staff or library board may at any time deny, revoke, or suspend specific users.

- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
- Be careful where you reveal your address or phone number. Minors should be diligent in not providing personal information over the Internet.
- Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the email systems have access to all mail. Messages relating to or supporting illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities, is strictly forbidden.
- Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt others.

**What is Internet Filtering?**

The public computers have a filtering program that blocks or filters Internet access as required by CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act). It works to protect against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. Filters may restrict access to sites that could be deemed objectionable but may also limit access to sites that have legitimate research value. No filtering system is completely effective or efficient. The librarian may disable Internet filtering software or other technology-based protection systems at the request of an adult.

When available from the Internet Provider, the library may also have a filter at the IP level. This filter will affect all computers using the library's Internet. The librarian may be able to disable this level filtering within two business days and only during library hours.

**What is on the children's computers?**

The AWE Early Literacy Station™ has more than 60 software titles to inspire learning in young children two to eight years of age. The subjects include math, geography, space, reading, and typing. Dictionary and general reference software will help kids explore even more.

The AWE AfterSchool Edge™ computer has 50 top-rated educational software programs to help children ages 6 to 12 explore subjects outside of the classroom. The programs span a wide range of topics, from science and technology to math, reading, reference, and the arts.

Neither children's computers have access to printers or the Internet.
No programs may be installed or downloaded onto the computers.

**Who may use the children's computers?**

Any unoccupied children's computer may be used without supervision by any student. Computer time is limited to 15 minutes if someone is waiting.

**Can I access the Internet with my smartphone or other devices?**

The library is a Wi-Fi hotspot with free wireless Internet access from 5 am CST to midnight.

A laptop computer or other wireless device with wireless networking capabilities is required. Parents, please be aware that most cell phones now have full Internet access capabilities. The wireless Internet access is open (no password needed) and filtered (see the note on filtering above). By choosing to use this free service, an individual agrees to the responsible use of the Internet.

The library staff cannot provide technical assistance and makes no guarantee that a wireless connection can be established.

The Antlers Public Library assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment, laptop or other wireless device configurations, security or data files resulting from connection to the library's wireless access.

**Use the wireless at your own risk!**

The Antlers Public Library makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the technology service it is providing. The Antlers Public Library will not be responsible for any damages suffered. This includes data loss resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence, errors, or omissions. Use of any information obtained via Antlers Public Library is at your own risk. The Antlers Public Library specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through this service.

**How are violations of the policy handled?**

Vandalism or violation of the computer use policy will result in the cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy the data of another user, Internet, or other agencies or other networks that are connected to the

Internet. This includes but is not limited to uploading, downloading, or creating computer viruses. Violations of the policy will result in increasing levels of action, ranging from asking the patron to leave the library for the remainder of the day to the patron's permanent loss of all library privileges to legal prosecution. The violation of this policy and the level of action required shall be determined on a case-by-case basis and shall be at the sole discretion of the Library personnel.

Approved July 2022.