COPPA Notice for At-Home Learning

Dear Parents and Guardians of Pleasant Valley students under the age of 13:

The Pleasant Valley School District continues its dedication to the provision of quality education using instructional tools that are both effective and appropriate for our learners. Many tools used by our teachers and librarians include educational, web-based services and applications to support daily instruction. The current school closure caused by the current pandemic has prompted an increase in online learning. Therefore, the primary mode of instruction will be digitally based for the foreseeable future.

Our District currently utilizes several computer software applications and web-based services, operated not by the Pleasant Valley School District, but by third parties. In addition to Google Apps for Education (GAFE), some of the applications used are Zoom, EdPuzzle, Kahoot, Near Pod, Quizlet, and other similar educational programs. In addition, the Pleasant Valley School District will potentially implement additional applications and web-based services. All applications and web-based services are and reviewed vetted through our Technology and Curriculum and Instruction departments for appropriate use.

A list of some of our most commonly used sites can be requested from our district buildings.

In order for our students to use these programs and services, certain personally identifying information, generally consisting of the student’s name and school e-mail address, must be provided to the web site operator. Under a federal law entitled Children’s Online Privacy and Protection Act (COPPA), these websites must provide parental notification and obtain parental consent before collecting personal information. For more information on COPPA, please visit http://www.ftc.gov/privacy/coppafaqs.shtm. Each website operator is bound by COPPA to maintain the confidentiality of the information collected. They are also required to post a privacy policy describing their practices. COPPA permits a school district to consent to the collection of this information on behalf of all of its students, thereby eliminating the need for individual parental consent given directly to each individual website operator.

Additionally, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student's education records. The Pleasant Valley School District will potentially utilize video conferencing (ZOOM, Google Classroom and Hangouts) in addition to other virtual/online platforms.
The Pleasant Valley School District has made reasonable efforts to ensure that video conferencing is confidential and access is limited to students in the assigned groups/classrooms. However, some of these services may be provided in a group format and when this occurs, students will be able to see other students in the group/classroom. During these assigned times of video instruction, the Pleasant Valley School District is unable to control who else may be in the room in which a student is receiving these services remotely, including other family members or others who are living with the students in the household, who may observe the session and who other students are in the group/classroom.

Therefore, Pleasant Valley School District expects that all families will review and implement the following guidelines and expectations to ensure the confidentiality rights of all students are protected during instructional sessions which will include group communications, and/or video conferencing. By having your child participate in video conferencing and/or other instructional methods, you are accepting and agreeing to the conditions outlined in this letter.

1. Neither Pleasant Valley School District nor parents shall make or maintain recordings of the course content or classroom activity or other group communication that is conveyed via the video conferencing services.

2. Parents shall make every effort to ensure that no one other than the student scheduled to participate in a video conference service can see or hear the conference.

3. If parental or other third-party involvement in a video conference is necessary to enable a student to participate, the individual assisting the student shall not re-disclose any personally identifiable information about any student involved in the video conference and that person must identify themselves to the class instructor at the beginning of the session.

4. If the parents’ electronic equipment malfunctions in any way, the planned video conference will continue as scheduled.

5. The parties agree that this Agreement does not apply to the video- or audio-taping of any course material by teachers that have been or may be made available to students from time to time and the teacher shall advise students that a class is being recorded at the beginning of the session.

6. As the parent/guardian of your child, you waive any privacy rights provided for under FERPA that would prevent the disclosure of information to third parties without consent limited to any inadvertent disclosure that may occur by virtue of others individuals being present with students in group sessions while the students are receiving services. As noted above, while the District has requested that all parents limit who will be able to see or hear the virtual sessions, the District cannot guarantee that all families will comply with this request.

If you choose to have your child NOT participate in any of the selected applications or web-based programs, please notify your child’s Principal in writing.
We have included a list of various educational sites that we approve for your child’s use. As additional sites come to our attentions, we will evaluate those resources to ensure they meet our privacy policies. Check back periodically as this information will continue to be updated.


I know it  https://www.iknowit.com/

Renaissance  https://hosted206.renlearn.com/371621/

Shape tracer  http://games.ozoblockly.com/shapetracer-basic

EdPuzzle  https://edpuzzle.com/

Screencastify  https://www.screencastify.com/

Read Aloud: A Text to Speech Voice Reader  https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/read-aloud-a-text-to-spee/hdhinadidafjejdhmfkignolgimiaplpl?hl=en