

Free Email, Internet, and Antivirus Services for Parents

In the digital world, e-mail and digital communication are a necessity. Daily information is provided to Killeen Independent School District students, parents, and community through many resources. The district also offers various sources of information for parents to become and remain engaged in their children's educational activities. Some of these resources require parents to have an active e-mail account. In addition to fee-based subscription services, there are also several free e-mail services available for creating an e-mail account as well as other Internet services available to parents at little or no cost. Additional information on these services is included here.

E-mail: Today you have a number of choices for free e-mail services. These services offer plenty of storage, spam filtering, a fast interface, desktop email program access and more. A few of the entities that provide these services for free are:

- **MSN Hotmail** - <http://www.hotmail.com>

Free e-mail with security from Microsoft - Windows Live Hotmail can help you organize and manage all your digital communication. Your Hotmail account will also provide free access and storage of a wide variety of web-based software including word processing and spreadsheets. You will be asked for the information including the e-mail address you want, a new password of at least 6 characters, and your name.

- **Gmail - Free E-mail** - <http://www.gmail.com>

Gmail is the Google approach to email and chat. Your Gmail account will also provide free access and storage of a wide variety of web-based software including word processing and spreadsheets. You will be asked for the information including the e-mail address you want, a new password of at least 8 characters, and your name.

- **Yahoo! Mail** - <http://mail.yahoo.com>

Yahoo! Mail is an e-mail program and many other services. You will be asked for the information including the e-mail address you want, a new password of at least 6 characters, and your name.

Free and Low-Cost Internet Providers for Parents

Internet Access: To connect to the World Wide Web, you will need to have Internet access. This connectivity connects your computer to the resources available on the Internet. There are service providers available who offer this service, with connectivity limitations, at no cost. The requirement to use these services is that you have a non-cell phone line available. You will also find that you have access to the Internet at your local library. Some of the providers who offer Internet access at little or no cost are:

- **NetZero Internet** – <http://www.netzero.com/free>
Get free NetZero Internet Access for 10 hours per month. Try Internet access for free and if you like it, you can upgrade to the unlimited product down the road. Webmail account included. No payment information required.
- **BamNet** - <http://www.bamnet.com>
Low cost Internet access with no monthly fee; connections are charged at 1 cent per minute or less across the lower 48 states of the US and Canada. International dialup access is available at higher per-minute rates. Users must purchase prepaid blocks of minutes from \$20 and up, but minutes do not expire.

Free Antivirus Software

Antivirus Software: Antivirus software is strongly recommended to safeguard your computer once it is connected to the Internet. Without good antivirus software, your computer is vulnerable and will likely become infected with one or more of the thousands of known viruses on the Internet. One free resource for antivirus software is:

- **AVG Antivirus Free Home Edition** – <http://free.avg.com>

Productivity/Office Software Applications

Application software: Application software is the productivity software that you use to create documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and other types of resources. There are companies that also provide this service for free with some limitations. Some of the providers who offer this service are:

- **Google Docs** - <http://docs.google.com>
- **Windows Live** – <http://www.live.com>
- **Open Office** – <http://www.openoffice.org>