

AFS School Safety and Electronic Use

Please refer to the of the Welcome to the USA Handbook regarding American School (page 44).

Rules and Attendance

Students need permission to leave the classroom, the school building, or leave the classroom during the day. Teachers expect students to be on time for class. If you are late or absent, you are expected to have a written note from your host parents giving the reason for your lateness or absence. If you are sick, you will need a note from a doctor explaining your illness. Being absent from class without an excuse is called "cutting class." In most schools, cutting class can lead to serious penalties. AFS Participants have been removed from their host schools and sent home for not attending classes on a regular basis. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to ask the teacher about any assignments or tests missed and to arrange for a "make-up" (to re-schedule a test or catch up on an assignment). **As an exchange student, you are here on a student visa and are expected to attend school regularly. Poor school performance and unexcused absences are grounds for AFS to consider your early return.**

Participants must pay close attention to the instructions given by school officials and must adhere to the recommendations, which are meant to ensure the safety of the student body.

Please refer to the Welcome to the USA Handbook regarding the Web and Social Networking (page 21).

There are many resources on the internet to advise you on how you can help to ensure your safety on the web. We recommend that you take the time to explore information regarding cyber safety and that you continually review your own online activities to make certain that you are putting safety ahead of socialization at all times.

One site you may want to explore is:

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/articles/0006c-teens>

Please refer to the Welcome to the USA Handbook regarding Guidelines for Internet Use (page 23).

When in doubt...

When in doubt about whether something that you are planning to email or post is appropriate and/or lawful, consider these questions and discuss the answers with a host parent or Liaison:

- Am I revealing any personal information about someone without their permission?
- Am I revealing personal information about myself which might be misused?
- Am I revealing personal information about my host family without their knowledge and/or permission?
- Am I using materials protected by copyright (such as the AFS logo)?
- Even if I have permission, is it wise and safe to share this information on my website, blog, etc.?