

TPS Standards of Conduct

You are using services and sites of The Potter's School. This is a family-oriented site, and we insist that all material on it and directly linked from it be family-friendly. Accordingly, use of our services constitutes understanding of and agreement to the following:

Parental Oversight. We assume that parents provide sufficient oversight to ensure their students conduct themselves honorably and adhere to these posted standards while they use our site or services. Furthermore, recognizing that it is impossible to meet everyone's preferences in a large and diverse group, and recognizing that our site serves a wide range of ages and backgrounds, we expect that parents will supervise their kids' use of our site and have them refrain from activities they feel are not beneficial to them.

Username and Passwords. We assume that while using our site or services students will conduct themselves honorably in a manner they would be proud to have associated with their name and their family's name. Accordingly we insist that every student use only his own assigned username while on our site or in our conferences. We do not permit anonymous participation in any of our services, nor do we permit students to use a fake username or another student's username while on our site. We expect students to immediately report compromised usernames or passwords, or any other violation of this standard.

Respect and Kindness. The Potter's School considers the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and the standard for assessing truth and error as well as moral right and wrong. However, we recognize that even within a worldview that sees the Bible as the standard for truth, there is an acceptable range of conservative interpretational opinions and individual applications. We encourage students to present and defend their views and to open-mindedly consider positions other than their own, but we insist that all such interactions be conducted with kindness and respect. We seek to always speak truth in love, remembering that love is patient, kind and gentle. We do not tolerate personal attacks or insults, or any other approach that belittles other people, regardless of their viewpoint. This standard applies to the classroom, the forum, and all other interactive mediums within The Potter's School.

Integrity and Plagiarism. Unless explicitly approved by the teacher, students must perform all evaluated work individually and must take all exams without referring to a textbook, notes, or other materials. We assume that all work submitted by students is their own original work, except for portions they explicitly attribute to another source. We consider any other submission to be plagiarism or cheating, and we expect parents to provide oversight as necessary to prevent such behavior.

Modesty and Decorum. Our classrooms and other site features allow young men and women to interact with one another in a variety of ways, including posting photos and movie clips, and various other spoken and written forms of interaction. In all interactions that utilize our site services, participants must maintain decorum in spoken and written conversation, and all posted photos and video interactions must exhibit conservative modesty in dress and behavior. Recognizing that different people have different standards of modesty and decorum, we insist that in all video, audio and written word interactions our students proactively take a conservative approach that models biblical interactions and reasonably avoids offense to others. In photos and videos, our general requirement is for guys and girls to remain covered from at least above the chest to the upper thigh (no cleavage or bare midriffs, please).

External Links and Advertising. We do not allow students to post external links in their yearbook pages and in the forum. We do not permit advertising on our site; therefore we also do not permit students to post links to products or services, even if those products or services are free.

Romance and Flirting. We encourage online group study or social activities. However, we discourage meetings in which a young man and young woman are alone together, and we request that students avoid this inside TPS.

We insist that our conference rooms, the forums, and our other interactive mediums not be used for "lonely hearts" discussions, flirting, dating, or other "romantic" endeavors. Regardless of the age of the participants or what any particular family accepts as appropriate in this area, we forbid all such actions and behavior on our site.

Reporting Problems. We believe that mutual accountability reinforces individual restraint in promoting appropriate standards of behavior. In some portions of our site, particularly the forum, we commission selected student volunteers to monitor behavior and enforce standards. However, appropriate standards of behavior will best be enforced by all participants confronting and reporting problems when they see them. Anyone who finds the behavior of another to be upsetting or offensive to another should ask the "offender" to cease or modify the behavior. If a direct request proves ineffective in stopping the problem and preventing recurrence, then please report the matter to the director. When reporting a problem, please provide as much specific information as possible, including the day, time, user names of all participants and witnesses, precise words used, and other details regarding the nature of the offense. We investigate all reports that contain sufficient information, and take action on all reports we can substantiate.