

## Worthington Christian Schools Blogging Policy

- WCS teachers are allowed to use blogs at WCS for educational classroom projects. Teachers should only use the [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) site (affiliated with Google) for WCS classroom projects.
- Teachers in grade 7 or below can have their students view their own teacher's blog(s). Classroom projects should not require a student to create his own student blog account or logon to the blog using the teacher's blog account on [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com).
- For grades 8 through 12, teachers can have educational blog projects that require a student to have his own student blog account on [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com).
- Teachers who create blogs for educational purposes must set up their blogs on [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) so that all students in the class participate as 'team members' of the blog. This requirement means that when a teacher sets up a blog, he must collect an email address for each student in the class, and then 'invite' the student to join the blog as a team member.
- Teachers who create blogs for educational purposes must set up their blogs on [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) so that any contributed comments from non-team members are moderated. This means that any comments added by non-team members must be reviewed or approved by the teacher before the comments can be added to the blog and made viewable to any Internet visitor to the blog. Please note that on blogger.com, student 'team members' of the blog can contribute comments to the blog at any time. Comments made by team members appear instantly on the blog and do not require any moderation or approval effort from the teacher who owns the blog.
- Teachers who create blogs for educational purposes in grades 8 through 12 must provide at least one full period of classroom time to explain to students how they should safely setup their own student blog accounts. This includes instruction on how to protect the identity of the student. Two recommended web sites that can be used for outlining blogging safety for teens include:  
<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/children/kidblog.mspx>  
<http://www.blogsafety.com/thread.jspa?threadID=120000037>

In addition, teachers are encouraged to show one or more short video clips about Internet online safety tips from <http://www.netSMART.org/resources/reallife.htm>

- Teachers who desire to create blogs for educational purposes on [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) must understand blogging concepts and personally create and manage their classroom blogs. Teachers should not delegate blog creation or management to WCS students from their classes.  
Overview sessions about blogs and blogging concepts will be held periodically within the district to help teachers who want to learn about blogs and blogging concepts.
- Any teacher in grades 8 through 12 who wants to use blogs outside of the guidelines posted above must present his request to the WCS Assistant Superintendent for review.

Approved 11/1/06