Parental Control Resource Guide

The number of children accessing the internet is constantly on the rise and protecting their privacy is becoming a major challenge. GCPS recognizes and supports the parents' duty to monitor their children's Internet access. To assist parents with this goal, GCPS developed this Resource Guide that contains software recommendations from industry leaders; links to articles on how to manage Internet monitoring; and links to information on how to prepare kids to use these tools properly. This Guide is not a comprehensive resource but rather a summary of available information. **GCPS does not advocate any specific software solution nor is GCPS responsible for the accuracy of the pricing or operation of the software described herein.**

Managing Internet Monitoring

- *Parental Controls & Online Child Protection:* A Survey of Tools & Methods Version 4.0 (http://www.pff.org/parentalcontrols/) Adam Thierer's report provides a comprehensive survey of the wide variety of parental control and online child protection tools and methods that exist today.

- *Safer Internet* (http://www.cyberethics.info/cyethics2/UserFiles/SIP_BenchmarkFilteringTools_Report_2008.pdf) The European Union's **Safer Internet Programme** funds an annual study that tries to benchmark the main functionalities of most currently used filtering software from a technical and "fit-for-purpose" point of view. The most current study is available on the Cyberethics.info web site (www.cyberethics.info).

- *Net Family News* (http://www.netfamilynews.org/) NetFamilyNews is an online "community newspaper" focused on kids' constructive use of technology. Founded in 1999, it has become the journal-of-record on all aspects of youth and technology, serving readers in more than 50 countries.

- *Internet Safety Tools* (http://www.netsmartz.org/resources/pledge.htm) NetSmartz provides "**House pledges**" or "**acceptable-use policies**" that can help provide clear guidelines for safer Internet use. NetSmartz recommends using the "Internet Safety Pledge" to promote safety discussions and create safer boundaries.

- *Shareware* For parents who are seeking a low cost parental-control software solution with basic functionality, many shareware applications are listed on various Internet sites. To find these sites simply use search phrases like, 'parental control shareware', 'software download library', or 'shareware sites'.

- *2010 Product Guide (*GetParentalControls.org's 2010 Product Guide) A guide to parental-control products. Be sure to check out http://getparentalcontrols.org/ for more tools for selecting parental control technology and information about parental control technology.