



# CONSTITUTIONAL FREEDOMS POLICY

## Purpose

Bonneville Academy recognizes and upholds the protections provided under federal copyright law and is committed to promoting ethical and lawful use of copyrighted materials by its employees and students. This policy is intended to ensure compliance with Title 17 of the United States Code, including the Fair Use Doctrine, and relevant educational guidelines.

## Policy Overview

It is the policy of Bonneville Academy to comply with all applicable provisions of the United States Copyright Law. Employees are prohibited from reproducing, distributing, performing, or displaying copyrighted materials—including, but not limited to, printed works, digital content, software, audiovisual materials, and online media—unless such use is allowed under fair use, licensed appropriately, or otherwise permitted by law.

## Scope

This policy applies to all school staff, students, contractors, and volunteers who use or distribute copyrighted materials in connection with school-sponsored activities, instruction, or administration, whether on campus or through digital platforms.

## Fair Use and Educational Use

Under 17 U.S.C. §107, certain limited uses of copyrighted works for educational purposes—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research—may qualify as fair use. Staff must evaluate whether their intended use meets the four-factor fair use test and consult with administration when unsure.

## Digital Platforms and Online Instruction

Use of copyrighted materials in online instruction (e.g., Canvas, Google Classroom, streaming services) must comply with the TEACH Act and other applicable laws. Staff must ensure all digital materials used in distance or hybrid learning meet copyright compliance standards.





**Prohibited Activities**

- Duplicating copyrighted materials without permission, license, or a clear fair use exception
- Sharing copyrighted videos, recordings, or digital content outside permitted use
- Uploading or embedding copyrighted content to school platforms without authorization
- Using software in violation of licensing agreements

**Employee Responsibility**

Employees are individually responsible for complying with this policy. Violations may result in personal liability and disciplinary action. However, educators acting in good faith under established fair use guidelines for legitimate educational purposes are generally protected from liability.

**Oversight and Education**

The school librarian and administration are responsible for providing guidance, training, and support in understanding and applying copyright law within the school setting. Training may be incorporated into professional development annually.

**Legal References**

- Title 17, United States Code (Copyright Law)
- 17 U.S.C. §107 – Fair Use
- TEACH Act (2002)
- USBE Rule R277-217 – Educator Standards and Ethics

Approved by the Board of Directors on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Chair, Bonneville Academy Board of Directors

