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SMAT respects the copyrights of individuals involved in creating and distributing all copyrighted material. The school's faculty or students will not make or store unauthorized copies of copyrighted material on computer systems, networks or storage media. They will not duplicate copyrighted material for unauthorized use.

Copyrighted material may be used in part only if (a) you have the copyright owner's permission, or (b) you qualify for a legal exception (the most common exception is called "fair use"). "Fair Use" is further defined in Section 107 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code) to include exceptions for non-profit educational use. There are several Rules of Thumb that apply to use of copyrighted material in course packs, research and reproduction archives. However, it is suggested that each exception be considered individually and the rules interpreted conservatively.

Copying, distributing, downloading, and uploading information on the Internet may infringe the copyright for that information. Even an innocent, unintentional infringement violates the law. Violations of copyright law that occur on or over the school's networks or other computer resources may create liability for the school as well as the computer user. Repeat infringers will have their computer privileges and other access privileges terminated by SMAT.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For detail, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505.