

[Teachers, this is a sample letter to parents that you can revise to fit your club. It is for clubs that meet during the regular school day. Be sure to check with your school administration to see if any other information is needed in this letter.]

The Packet Riders
Adventurers on the Internet

Dear Parents,

This school year your child will participate in our new Packet Riders Club, which will be incorporated into some of our computer classes. The purpose of this club is to help students understand how the Internet works so that they can become safe and responsible users of the information highway.

Most middle school-aged students use the Internet to find information, communicate with friends, and be entertained. When they get a school assignment that requires research, their first thought is to go online. They are adept at email and know how to locate just about any game or song on the Internet. Although they actively participate in online activities, they generally have little knowledge of how the Internet works and what processes are involved in sending and receiving digital information.

Our Packet Riders Club gets its name from the tiny packets that travel though the Internet carrying bits of information. Throughout the year, our class will be working with digital superheroes Peter and Penny Packet as they try to deliver packets to their destinations. Students will encounter viruses, hackers, and interference as they learn about servers, routers, wireless networking, encryption, security, and anti-virus techniques.

The Packet Riders Club is designed to give students a solid understanding of networking basics while encouraging them to pursue more advanced studies in technology. They'll be introduced to a number of technology-related careers as they take on the many challenges offered through the club.

I'd like you to join me in helping your child use the Internet safely and responsibly. Please read more about the Packet Riders <Packet Riders>. Once our club gets underway, we may invite you to participate in some of our activities.

If you have any questions about our club, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,