

Elementary School Cell Phone/Personal Device Policy

Allowed Use:

Personal Devices (i.e., cell phones, smart watches, tablets, personal laptops, etc.): Students may use personal devices while school is in session when permission is given and under the direct supervision of a school staff member. Users should be courteous and respectful of others. All devices must be put away/secured, and ringers silenced before entering the classroom. Devices in use or view during class time may be confiscated by staff (this includes using phones to listen to music). Personal devices are allowed to be used on the school bus; however, all expectations of appropriate use/restrictions during the school day still apply. Students who refuse to comply will be subject to school consequences. Additionally, students are not allowed to have headphones/earbuds on or in their ears during class unless permission is granted by the supervising adult.

The district will not be held accountable for lost or stolen items brought to school by a student.

Restrictions:

1. Profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, language that is harassing, any form of bullying, derogatory, or otherwise inappropriate for the school environment is not permitted. Language that promotes illegal activity or dangerous acts, is lewd or offensive, creates a material disruption to the school environment, or contains knowingly false, recklessly false, or defamatory information is not permitted.
2. Users shall not display, send, retrieve, or download any items that are sexually explicit or contain hate-based or discriminatory material. Users shall notify a staff member in the event inappropriate material is inadvertently accessed. Users must not distribute contents described or will be subject to disciplinary action.
4. Videos or photos (audio or visual recordings) to record the activities of others or to violate the privacy of others is not permitted.
5. Devices cannot be used to cheat on school-assigned tasks.

Personal Devices (search and confiscation of cell phones):

1. Student-owned devices may be confiscated if a student violates school policies, such as displaying a cell phone at a time cell phones are not permitted.
2. A school official may search student-owned technology when they reasonably suspect a search will reveal evidence that the student has violated or is violating school rules, school policies, or the law. Students may be subject to discipline for content found on student-owned technology.
3. If a school official finds content that violates school rules, policies, or the law while searching for another reason (trying to determine the owner of a lost phone, suspected cheating on a test, etc.), students may be subject to disciplinary action.
4. If a school official finds a student is in possession of child pornography, which includes nude photos, or partially nude photos, of minors, staff will confiscate technological devices. Law enforcement will be contacted to determine if a further investigation is warranted. Staff members will not place potentially pornographic materials on their school or personal devices to retain as evidence.

Content (on student personal device off school grounds):

1. If inappropriate content/message from student technology has caused or is likely

to cause a “substantial disruption” or “material interference” at school, the school may take action, regardless of when or where the message was sent.

2. If the content is considered a credible threat to persons or property, school officials may take disciplinary action regardless of when and where the message was sent. Law enforcement will be contacted to determine if further investigation is warranted.

Action:

1. When arriving on the school campus and at the beginning of class, teachers/staff will remind students to secure their phones/devices.
2. Students should have their phones put away and/or not in use (backpack, pocket, purse, desk, locker, worn appropriately (watch or fitness tracker).
3. If a student fails to “secure their device,” a reminder will be given to the student, and expectations will be reviewed.
4. If the device continues to be used, the device will be confiscated by the supervising staff and returned at the end of the period or class. The teacher/office will notify the student’s guardian(s) of the incident, and expectations will be reviewed.
5. If the problem persists, the device will be stored in the office, and guardian(s) must come to the school to pick up the device. A conference will be held between the teachers, administrator, student, and guardians to review the expectations and determine a plan to best support the student in following the policy.
6. If the above practices are unsuccessful, the student may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including:
 - a. Whole day removal of the device
 - b. Multiple-day removal of the device
 - c. Trimester in length of removal of the device