

Student-Owned Electronic Communications Devices

Students, with permission of their parent(s)/guardian(s), or the student him or herself if over 18 years of age, may be in possession of a personal electronic devices such as smart phones, cellular telephones, pagers/beepers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, or other related electronic devices on school property. The devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including, but not limited to, posing a threat to academic integrity or violating confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual. Unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger *or a certified District employee authorizes the student to do otherwise* (such as use in class), use of devices shall be limited to the period before classes begin in the morning, during the student's lunch period, and after the student's last class in the afternoon.

Access to the devices is a privilege and not a right. Each student will be required to follow the Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks Policy and the Internet Access Conduct Agreement.

Students may only access the internet through the filtered District connection, regardless of whether they are using their personal device or a District-issued device. District staff will not provide software or technical assistance for student-owned devices.

Because power cords stretched out in classrooms become a safety issue both for the students and devices, charging the device in any classroom, hallway, or any other location that may be a safety concern will not be allowed.

The use of cameras in any type of electronic device is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, restrooms, and classrooms unless *a certified District employee authorizes the student to do otherwise*. Where students are allowed to use electronic devices, they are required to obtain permission before taking a photograph or video of any individual. Students must also obtain permission from any individual appearing in a photograph or video prior to posting on any social networking site or other internet site.

Students found to be using any electronic communications device to in any way send or receive personal messages, data, or information that would contribute to or constitute cheating on any student assessment, project, or assignment shall be subject to discipline and the device shall be confiscated and not returned until a parent conference has been held.

Students are responsible for safeguarding devices they bring to school. The district shall not be responsible for loss, theft, damages, or destruction of student owned devices brought onto school property.

Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning appropriate use of telecommunication or other electronic devices.

Student use of cell phones is prohibited at both Prairie Elementary School and Prairie Junior/Senior High School during class time, assemblies, and other designated school events. Students may not use these devices in or out of the classroom while class is in session.

- High School and Jr High students will be allowed to have cell phones out prior to school, during passing period, and at lunch, but are highly encouraged to have conversations with their peers rather than being on electronics. Cell phones should not be seen or used in the classroom.
- Chrome books are no longer allowed to leave the classrooms. We have classroom sets only!

A student who does have the cell phone turned on or out during class will have it confiscated and can pick it up after school for the 1st offense. 2nd and 3rd offense, the parents will have to pick the phone up. On the 4th offense, the student will lose all cell phone privileges for the rest of the school year. Students who fail to comply with this policy will be assigned a 3-day in-school suspension. Further violations will be progressive following our disciplinary guidelines.

As has always been the case, students will be able to use the school phone, if needed. Continued infractions will constitute willful disobedience and will be punished accordingly. If parents are trying to reach a student, please call the office and we will get a note to your student to call from the office. Please avoid cell phone interactions with your kids during school session.

Other electronic devices are not to be used during class time. Teachers have the right to ask for any device that is disruptive to the classroom environment or used inappropriately in any way. Confiscated devices will be returned at the end of the school day for the first offense and will require parents or guardians to pick them up from the office for subsequent offenses.

Students violating the provisions of this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including losing the privilege of bringing the device onto school property, detention, suspension, or expulsion. In addition, an administrator will confiscate the devices, which shall only be returned to the student's parent(s)/guardian(s). Where appropriate, police authorities may be contacted.

The controls on electronic communication devices contained in this policy do not apply to special education or Section 504 students or students with an Individualized Education Plan when any of these or other such similar plans conflict with uses outlined herein.

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 15, 2016

Revised on: November 18, 2024