

Electronics and Wireless Communication Devices (Cell Phones & Smart Devices)

Games, cameras, and other electronic items are not allowed at the Academy unless express permission is given by the School Leader.

Wireless communication devices (WCDs) are devices that emit an audible signal, vibrate, display a message, or send or receive a communication to the possessor. WCDs include, but are not limited to the following: cellular phones, personal digital assistants (PDA's), e-readers, iPads, smart phones, Wi-Fi enabled access devices, video broadcasting devices, laptops, tablets and smart watches.

Use of WCD's can create a distraction, disruption or interfere with the educational environment of the Academy. The Academy generally prohibits students from the use or possession of any WCD on Academy property, in an Academy vehicle or at any Academy-sponsored event. Students may only possess or use WCDs (including cell phones, pagers, etc.) if permission is given by the student's parents/guardians AND the School Leader. The School will not give such permission unless the student's parents or guardians have signed the Wireless Communication Devices (WCDs)/Cell Phone Acceptable Use Agreement and Network and Internet Acceptable Use Agreement. If a personal WCD is used on Academy property, in an Academy vehicle or at any Academy-sponsored event, students must only use the Academy's filtered Network for data access (either wirelessly or through a direct connection). Students who obtain the necessary permission to possess or use WCDs must have them silent and stowed during the normal school day. This includes during latchkey hours and extracurricular events. Otherwise, cell phone use is only permitted before or after official school time, and only with administrative permission.

Cameras, cell phones or other WCDs may not be used to take pictures or videos without the express permission of a teacher or an administrator. WCDs, cameras, video cameras or any equipment that has video and/or camera capability may not be activated or used at any time in any Academy situation where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists. Pictures or videos taken in locker rooms or restrooms are strictly forbidden. Additionally, if any prohibited pictures or videos are taken and subsequently posted to the Internet, it will be considered an additional infraction. These students will be considered insubordinate and will be disciplined under the gross misdemeanors section of the Safe Schools Discipline Code of Conduct.

The Academy prohibits any electronic item from containing inappropriate material (as determined by the Administration) including offensive or inappropriate language, pictures or images, language that would promote violence or hatred, and sending, receiving or possessing sexually explicit or otherwise inappropriate pictures, messages, or images.

Students are prohibited from using WCDs to transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, academic dishonesty or violating the student expectations as outlined in the Family/Student Handbook.

A student's possession of any electronic item on Academy grounds, in an Academy vehicle or at an Academy sponsored activity or event constitutes consent to the search of that electronic item. Students should also understand that any student who possesses a cell phone, WCD or other electronic item shall assume responsibility for its care.

The Academy assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a personal wireless communication device brought to Academy property, in an Academy vehicle, or at any Academy-sponsored activity or event, or the unauthorized use of such devices. Students bring these devices at their own risk. If a theft occurs, the user should contact a school administrator to make him/her aware of the situation so it will be handled the same way as any other theft. Damage or theft is the sole responsibility of the owner.

Possession of a cell phone or WCD by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Any device found in violation of this policy including if a student does not have the permission to use/possess an electronic device but it is found to be visible or heard on Academy property, in an Academy vehicle, or at any Academy-sponsored activity or event, the item will be confiscated and the parent/guardian will be notified. The confiscated item will be held in the School Office; the item will be returned to the parent/legal guardian only. Confiscated phones, cameras, and other electronic devices will be discarded if not picked up by a parent or legal guardian within 30 days. Prior to such disposal, a notification of that disposal will be sent to the student's mailing address on file in the School Office.

Violating this policy may also result in permission to use the network possibly permanently revoked; student disciplinary action (including suspension and expulsion); and possible referral of the matter to law enforcement if there is a suspicion of illegal activity. (e.g. child pornography, threats of violence, etc.).

Students who refuse to relinquish their electronic device immediately upon request of a staff member will be considered insubordinate and will be disciplined under the gross misdemeanors section of the Safe Schools Student Discipline Code of Conduct.

These prohibitions are in effect any time on Academy property, in an Academy vehicle, or at any Academy-sponsored activity or event.

Students may use telephones located in the classrooms and office for emergency reasons with the permission and supervision of a teacher or staff member.