

## Electronic Device Policy



### Context:

Electronic devices, such as iPods and cell phones have become a mainstay in today's society, for youth and adults. It is important that school life reflects what is happening in society. These devices can be useful tools in the classroom in that they can be used for such things as web browsing, information sharing, voice recording, calculating, and so on. More and more teachers are incorporating the use of students' handheld devices into their classes as an integral part of teaching and learning.

Students really enjoy the freedom to choose to use their devices at break times. Rest assured that the majority of kids choose outdoor, active play or socializing with friends, but some really enjoy the option to listen to music or play a game. Our hope is that providing students with the opportunity and framework to utilize these devices in a positive, responsible way at school will increase the likelihood of responsible use after school hours.

\* Since implementing this policy in 2010, which also exists at some other middle schools and all high schools, we have enjoyed many benefits and had very few issues around misuse at school.

### POLICY:

Electronic devices (iPods and cell phones) can be carried at all times, **but only be used in classrooms at teacher discretion**. During break times, students can use the devices as long as it is in an appropriate manner.

General Expectations (Cell Phones): should not be used for social calls; ringers must always remain on silent; any texting during break times should be in the form of information sharing or positive social messaging. Accessing social media sites at school is not permitted unless required by a teacher.

General Expectations (iPods): volume must not distract others; earphones must be removed when speaking to an adult.

Inappropriate Use:

- Not following teacher instructions/classroom policy.
- Using the device in a negative way towards others
- Absolutely no photos/videos without teacher permission

Progressive Consequences for Inappropriate Use:

The first instance will result in the device being sent to the office where it can be picked up at the end of that day.

The second instance will result in an office referral and confiscation for a brief period; parents will also be contacted.

The third instance will result in loss of the privilege for a longer period of time (the length will depend on the circumstances).

**\*Any incident deemed serious enough could result in the immediate loss of this privilege for an extended period of time.**

\*\*Parents are asked to contact the school office to communicate with their children as opposed to texting them during class time. Otherwise, they should not expect a response until break times.

\*\*\* As we are not mandating that students bring electronic devices to school, they do so at their own risk. The school assumes no responsibility for damage, loss, etc.