

## STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No student, unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, shall use (must be in the off position), make visible, or operate any personal electronic device including any device in a student's possession that electronically communicates, sends, receives, stores, reproduces or displays voice and/or text communication or data on any elementary, middle, or secondary school grounds or any bus while being transported to and from school or any school functions. The devices shall include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, smart phones, e-Readers, iPods, SPY Pens, Pocket Audio Key Chains, audio flash drives, smart watches, cameras, video recorders and personal GPS tracking devices with audio features. Neither the Livingston Parish School Board nor any individual schools under the jurisdiction of the School Board shall be held responsible for lost, stolen, confiscated, or damaged electronic devices.

### 1. Students in Grades PK - 5

Personal electronic devices shall not be permitted on campus during regular school hours for any reason for students in PK – 5<sup>th</sup> grades.

Exception:

- If 5<sup>th</sup> grade is included on the junior high campus, then students shall follow the 6-12 policy.
- If 6<sup>th</sup> grade is included on the elementary campus, then students shall follow the PK – 5 policy.

### 2. Students in Grades 6 - 12

Unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, any—cellular telephones and/or other personal electronic devices in use or operation during the regular academic day shall be confiscated by a faculty or staff member at the time of the infraction. A student's refusal to relinquish the device shall be disciplined in accordance with the *Student/Parent Handbook*. The confiscated device shall be held in the administrative office, and the student's parents or guardian will be contacted. Parents or a designated adult may retrieve the device before, or at the end of, the regular academic day, or other designated time determined by the principal. When a student's device is confiscated pursuant to this policy, he/she shall be disciplined in accordance with the progressive discipline policy as listed in the school's *Student/Parent Handbook*.

## REGULATIONS

- Each student shall be responsible for personal electronic devices at all times. The school is not responsible for storing or keeping the device(s) secure at any time. A student brings such device at his/her own risk. The school will not be responsible for searching for lost or stolen devices.
- If authorized by the principal, each teacher shall have the ability to allow and regulate the use of personal electronic devices in the classroom and for specific educational purposes.
- Devices shall be in the off position (not left on vibrate) while on school campuses, unless authorized by the principal and allowed by a teacher.
- Students shall not use devices to record, transmit, or post photographic images, sound, or video of a person or persons on campus during school activities and/or hours at any time, unless otherwise directed by a teacher for specific educational purposes that have been approved by the principal.
- Unless specifically directed by a teacher, a student turning on or activating a personal electronic device during testing or assignments, except in the case of emergency shall be subject to discipline and confiscation of the device in accordance with policy.
- Improper use of devices may result in disciplinary action. Examples of improper use include, but are not limited to, the following: interference, disruption or obstruction of the educational environment, academic dishonesty, plagiarism, or violation of intellectual property laws, accessing files or sites not relevant to the curriculum, sending or displaying offensive messages, texting, sending pictures, or using inappropriate language (e.g. sexting or use in a manner that is profane, indecent, obscene, or vulgar), cyberbullying, harassing, intimidating, coercing, threatening, or attacking others, making public private information without consent, damaging computers, networks, or other electronic devices.
- Student devices with camera and video capability shall not be used in any way to infringe upon the privacy of students and staff.
- Students shall comply with all teacher or administrator requests regarding technology, such as shutting down, handing the device(s) to school personnel, closing screen, storing, etc.
- If students are given the permission to use a personal electronic device to access the internet, students shall be logged into the School Board's network and content filter. Students accessing the internet without logging into the School Board's network may be subject to disciplinary action.

Any violation of these guidelines may result in the loss of privileges as well as other disciplinary action.

A properly authorized medical device worn by a student shall not be considered a violation of this policy.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the use or operation by any person, including students, of any cellular telephone or other personal electronic device in the event of an emergency as defined below.

### DEFINITIONS

An *emergency* means an actual or imminent threat to public health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

*Use or operation* of a cellular telephone or other electronic telecommunication device means the device is being held by a student, or is turned on, makes an audible sound, or is in a mode capable of receiving or transmitting signals.

The *regular academic day* shall begin at the time students enter the school bus or arrive on campus prior to the take-in bell and conclude upon the dismissal bell or exiting the bus at the end of the day.

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:239, 17:416, 17:416.1; Board minutes, 5-18-06, 11-21-19.