

Cellular Telephones, Electronic Signaling Devices, Memory Storage Devices and Personal Computers Policy

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

PURPOSE: The Possession and Silent Use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, by district students is permissible when in compliance with this Policy, other district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, ISP terms, and local, state, and federal laws.

DEFINITIONS:

Electronic Communication Devices

- are communication devices with voice, data, text, and/or navigation capabilities that are able to access the Internet, transmit telephone calls, text messages, email messages, instant messages, video communications (such as iChat and Skype), perform word processing and other computer and online applications (apps), and provide location information. The devices are capable of electronically communicating, sending, receiving, storing, recording, reproducing, and/or displaying information and data. Examples of Electronic Communication Devices include smartphones (iPhone, Blackberry), cellular phones, mobile phones (with recording and/or camera/video and other capabilities and configurations); traditional telephones; pagers; global positional system (GPS) instruments; computers; portable game units; graphic calculators; MP3, music, and media players; PDAs; digital cameras; tablet and laptop computers; and other similar devices. Electronic Communication Devices may also be referred to as electronic devices in other publications and district policies. Electronic Communication Devices could be devices that are not capable of transmitting telephone communications (such as iPads, radios), do not have Internet access (such as district issued and student-owned Kindles), are lasers, and/or are radar communication devices.

Personal Electronic Communication Devices

- are Electronic Communication Devices that are owned by the student.

Silent Use

- is the use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, which make no sound, are inaudible, and are speechless. Examples of Silent Use include texting, electronic messaging, and the use of headphones with the volume not being audible to others. No device ringing, ringtones, or sound effects are permitted at any time.

AUTHORITY:

The Bigfork Schools #38 Board of Trustees permits Silent Use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, by district students during the school day in district buildings, on district property, and while students are attending district-sponsored activities during regular school hours when they are in compliance with this Policy, other district policies, regulations, rules,

and procedures, and so long as such use does not interfere with the students' educational requirements, responsibilities/duties and performance, the rights and education of others, and the operation and services of the district.

Students may use their Personal Electronic Communication Devices only if they have written consent from their parent(s)/guardian(s) on a form provided by the district. Building level administrators, in consultation with the Superintendent and in compliance with this Policy, other district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, are authorized to determine the extent of the use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, within their schools, on the school's property, and while students are attending that school's sponsored activities during regular school hours. For example, use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, at the elementary grade level may be different than that at the middle school, and/or high school grade levels. Unless a teacher determines otherwise, Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, must be turned off upon entering any instructional area and remain off until the student leaves the instructional area. Instructional areas include, but are not limited to, classrooms, gymnasiums, practice and athletic fields, field trip locations, cafeteria and music/band rooms.

The district shall have the right to restrict Electronic Communication Devices during school evacuations as necessary, for the safety and security of all individuals.

To the extent permitted by law, the district shall not be liable for the theft, loss, damage, misuse, or unauthorized use of any Personal Electronic Communication Device brought to school by a student. Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of Personal Electronic Communication Devices brought to school, school events, or district property. The district will not be responsible for restricting, monitoring, or controlling the personal electronic communications of students; however, it reserves the right to do so.

If Personal Electronic Communication Devices are loaned to or borrowed and/or misused by non-owners, the owners of the Personal Electronic Communication Devices are jointly responsible with the non-owner for the misuse and/or violation of district policy, regulations, rules, or procedures.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY:

The Superintendent is granted the authority to create and enforce regulation(s), rules, procedures, and forms to accompany this Policy. The Superintendent, and/or designee, shall annually notify students, parent(s)/guardian(s), employees, and Guests about the district's Electronic Communication Device Policy by publishing the Policy in the student handbook, newsletters, posted notices, and/or any other methods. The Superintendent, and/or designee, is responsible for training and retraining administrators and employees who are responsible for the use, supervision, discipline, investigation, confiscation, searching, and/or other matters involving students' Electronic Communication Device, including Personal Electronic Communication Device, use.

Students must comply with this Policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules and procedures. Students must comply with the guidelines set by the classroom teacher

and/or district and building officials for the use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices.

Students will be held responsible for their conduct in the use of the Devices and are subject to the consequences provided in the last section of this Policy.

GUIDELINES:

In accordance with this Policy, Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, *may be used* in authorized areas or as determined by the school administration as follows:

- a. For educational or instructional purposes.
- b. Before and after school, in the cafeteria at lunchtime, in the hallways during the passing of classes, on the district's bus if authorized by the bus driver, and in the library if authorized by the teacher.
- c. When the educational, safety, emergency, medical, or security use of the Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Communication Devices, by the student is approved by the building principal, or designee, or the student's IEP team. In such cases, the student's use must be supervised by a district professional.

In accordance with this Policy, Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, *may not be used* in unauthorized areas or as determined by the school administration as follows:

- a. The Board strictly prohibits possession by students on school grounds, at district-sponsored activities, and on buses or other vehicles provided by the district, any non-district-owned laser pointers, or laser pointer attachments, and any Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, that are hazardous or harmful to students, employees, and the district. These include, but not limited to, devices that control/interfere with the operation of the buildings' systems, facilities and infrastructure, or digital network. No exception or permission may be authorized by the principal, or designee, or anyone, for students to possess or use such devices.
- b. During tests, examinations, and/or assessments, unless the teacher authorizes such use. When Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, are not permitted to be used during tests, examinations, and/or assessments they must be stored in closed items such as purses and book bags, and may not be visible or turned on. For example, they may not be placed on the desktop, table or on an individual's lap.
- c. To cheat, engage in unethical conduct, and threaten academic integrity.
- d. To access and/or view Internet websites that are blocked by the district. Examples include, but are not limited to, social media sites and "inappropriate matter" as defined in the district's Responsible Use Policy and Social Media Policy.

- e. To invade the privacy rights of any student or employee, violate the rights of any student or staff member, or harass, threaten, intimidate, bully or cyberbully any student, employee, or guest, or promote or engage in violence. Actions include, but are not limited to, taking an individual's photo without consent, recording an individual's voice or image without consent, or storing/accessing personal and/or academic information/data without consent.
- f. In locker rooms, restrooms and dressing rooms.
- g. To create, send, share, view, or disseminate sexually explicit, lewd images or video content, as such acts may be a crime under state and/or federal law.
- h. To disrupt the educational and learning environment.

Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, which violate this Policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules, and procedures shall be confiscated and may be turned over to law enforcement personnel or returned to the student's parents or guardians with instructions regarding the future use of such devices on school grounds.

If school officials have reasonable suspicion that this Policy, other relevant district policies, regulations, rules, procedures, and laws have been violated by the student's use of Electronic Communication Devices, including Personal Electronic Communication Devices, the devices may be searched by school officials to the extent permitted by law. Students should have no expectation of privacy when using the district-owned Electronic Communication Devices and when using the district's Wi-Fi or other service(s). In addition, students should have no expectation of privacy when they use Personal Electronic Communication Devices on the district's Wi-Fi or other service(s).

When legally required and/or when in the interest of the student, the student's parent/guardian shall be notified.

If an Electronic Communication Device, including a Personal Electronic Communication Device, is suspected of being stolen, it shall be turned over to law enforcement. Disciplinary consequences shall be in accordance with the district's policies, regulations, rules, and procedures, including but not limited to Student Discipline, Responsible Use of Information Technology Resources, Bullying/Cyberbullying, Harassment, Social Media, and other policies.

Violations of this Policy should be reported to the Superintendent.

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