## STUDENT CELL PHONE/PERSONAL WIRELESS DEVICE USE

The Bugonaygeshig School recognizes that while mobile technology is a powerful tool, unrestricted access to personal wireless devices during the school day is linked to increased anxiety, cyberbullying, and reduced academic focus. This policy is designed to build a culture of responsible device use, not solely to restrict access, so that students can engage deeply with their teachers, peers, and heritage without interference from digital distractions.

**Personal Wireless Device Definition:** A *personal wireless device* is any privately owned or non-school-issued electronic device that is capable of transmitting, receiving, storing, or accessing data through wireless communication technologies (including but not limited to Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, cellular networks, or radio signals). Such devices include (1) smartphones and other mobile phones; (2) smartwatches and other wearable technology; (3) wireless earbuds and headphones; (4) tablets and e-readers; (5) laptop and notebook computers; (6) portable gaming devices; and (7) any accessory with wireless communication capability.

**The Core Rule:** Use of personal wireless devices is strictly prohibited from the moment a student enters the school building until the completion of the student's academic programming, unless otherwise noted by this policy.

**Storage Requirements:** All personal wireless devices must remain powered off and stored completely out of sight in the student's backpack or locker for the duration of the school day.

**Smartwatches:** Students may wear smartwatches solely for safety and tracking purposes (e.g., passive GPS location tracking or emergency SOS features). These devices must remain in "Do Not Disturb" mode, meaning they are silenced and receive no notifications. Use of a smartwatch for any reason other than safety or tracking purposes constitutes a direct violation of this policy.

**Laptops and Tablets:** Student-owned personal computing devices, such as laptops and iPads, are classified as personal wireless devices and subject to the same restrictions. To ensure instructional equity, maintain network security, and comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) filtering requirements, students must use only school-issued devices for all digital instructional activities.

**Extracurricular Activities/Field Trips/Non-School Hour Activities:** During any extended academic programming and all extracurricular or non-academic activities, including after-school programs, Saturday School, intersessions, field trips, tutoring, athletics, and clubs, use of personal wireless devices is permitted only at the supervising staff member's discretion. *Extended academic programming means any school-sponsored instructional time outside the regular school day intended to deliver academic instruction.*

**Violations of Policy: The "Three Strikes" Model:** Implementation should not detract from instructional time. To avoid criminalizing student behavior, schools shall adopt a graduated response:

- **1st Offense (Redirect):** Verbal warning; student must put the device in the appropriate storage immediately.
- **2nd Offense (Confiscate):** The device will be placed by the student in a designated area (e.g., the teacher's desk) and returned to the student at the end of the class period.
- **3rd Offense (Escalate):** Device confiscated and turned into the Dean; students can pick their phone up at the end of the school day.
- **Refusal to Surrender:** Refusal to hand over a device constitutes "Insubordination," and may carry separate consequences under the Student Code of Conduct.
    - Students who habitually reach the level of "refusal to surrender" may be required to participate in a meeting with parents/guardians and school staff.

**De-escalation Protocol (Refusal to Surrender):** To maintain a safe and focused classroom environment, teachers are expected to prioritize de-escalation over immediate confiscation. If a student refuses to surrender a device during a 2nd or 3rd offense, staff must follow these steps:

**Avoid Power Struggles:** Teachers must not engage in a public argument or attempt to remove the device from the student's possession physically.

**Provide a Clear Choice:** Calmly offer the student one final opportunity to comply by stating the immediate choice and the resulting consequence. For example: "You may place the phone in the caddy now, or I will need to submit an administrative referral for insubordination."

**Disengage and Document:** If the student continues to refuse, instruct them to place the device out of sight in their backpack, disengage from the confrontation, and immediately resume classroom instruction.

**Administrative Escalation:** At the next natural break in instruction, the teacher will submit a disciplinary referral to the Front Office. School administration or security will then be responsible for handling the violation and securing the device for parent pickup,

ensuring all necessary due process requirements are met. Device violations alone do not constitute grounds for suspension or expulsion, but may contribute to broader behavioral interventions.

**Staff Modeling (Digital Role Modeling):** We recognize that students learn by observation. Therefore, school staff are expected to model healthy digital habits.

- **Instructional Time:** Teachers and staff should refrain from using personal wireless devices for personal business (texting, scrolling) during active instructional time.
- **Emergency Exception:** Staff use of phones for school safety, emergency communication, or two-factor authentication for school accounts is permitted.

The Bugonaygeshig School prioritizes the academic success, cultural connection, and holistic wellness of every student. While technology remains an essential educational tool, this framework ensures that our classrooms remain dedicated spaces for active learning and genuine peer engagement. We are taking proactive steps to safeguard instructional time and support our students' mental health. Shifting digital habits requires a community effort, and we invite our families, staff, and Tribal partners to join us in modeling healthy digital boundaries. Together, we can equip our students with the focus and resilience they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.