District Code: JT

Electronic Communication Device Policy

I. Purpose

The District is committed to maintaining a focused, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment that supports student engagement, academic success, and school safety. This policy establishes District-wide expectations for student possession and use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices during the school day.

II. Definitions

Electronic Communication Device includes any personal device capable of sending, receiving, accessing, recording, or transmitting information electronically. These devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Smart watches
- Tablets (non-school issued)
- Bluetooth earbuds/headphones
- AI-enabled wearable devices, including smart glasses or augmented reality glasses
- Devices capable of texting, calling, messaging, video chatting, recording, photographing, or accessing social media
- Any other personal electronic device that may disrupt the educational environment

III. School-Level Expectations

1. Elementary School (Grades Junior K – 5)

To promote a safe and developmentally appropriate learning environment:

- All electronic communication devices must be kept in the student's backpack.
- Devices must remain powered off or on silent mode during the school day.
- Devices may not be accessed or used during instructional or non-instructional time unless authorized by school administration.

2. Middle School (Grades 6 – 8)

To reduce distractions and support academic focus:

- All electronic communication devices must be kept in the student's locker during the school day.
- Devices must remain powered off or on silent mode.
- Devices may not be carried or used during class periods unless explicitly authorized by administration for educational or safety purposes.

3. High School (Grades 9 – 12)

High school students are expected to follow the following guidelines:

- Students may use electronic communication devices in common areas (hallways, commons, cafeteria, etc.) during passing time and lunch, provided it is appropriate and non-disruptive.
- Students must place electronic communication devices, with the exception of smart watches, in designated areas assigned by the classroom teacher upon entering a classroom.
- Smart watches may be worn throughout the day so long as they are silenced or disabled to prevent distractions. Smart watches must not be used for texting, calling, or non-educational purposes during class time.
- Students must power off devices or place them on airplane mode, silent, or do not disturb during class time, unless a teacher explicitly authorizes students to use an electronic communication device for educational purposes.
- Students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices in bathrooms and locker rooms at all times.

IV. Violations and Consequences

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, as detailed in the applicable Discipline Matrix.

V. Accommodations

The District recognizes that some students may require access to electronic communication devices to ensure equitable educational participation. Accommodations may be made for:

- Students with disabilities who require assistive technology or communication supports, consistent with an IEP or Section 504 Plan.
- Students on Health Plans that require assistive technology or communication supports.
- Students with limited English proficiency who utilize translation or communication tools as part of their instructional supports.

VI. Additional Expectations and Guidelines

- The District encourages families to communicate with students during the school day through the school office when necessary. Students should not rely on personal devices for routine communication during instructional time.
- Electronic communication devices may be used when directed by staff during an emergency or safety situation.
- Electronic communication devices may not be used in any manner that compromises academic integrity, including unauthorized use during assessments.
- Students bring electronic communication devices to school at their own risk. The District is not responsible for loss, theft, damage, or misuse of personal electronic devices.
- Students are prohibited from audio or video recording, photographing, or live-streaming staff or students without explicit permission.
- Cellphones that are confiscated will be stored in the office for the remainder of the school day, as well as for any additional school days assigned as part of the confiscation period.

Adopted: 04/21/26

Cross Refence: Academic Dishonesty; Acceptable Use Policy; AI