

Students and Personal Electronic Devices

Students in possession of personal electronic devices including but not limited to: smart devices (e.g. smart phones, smartwatches, tablets, MP3 players, gaming systems), communication devices, cameras, video cameras, digital media players etc., while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activities shall observe Yakima School District Operational Procedure regarding their use (RCW 28A.320.135).

This procedure extends to devices which emit audible signals, vibrate, display a message, or otherwise summon or deliver a communication to the student during the instructional day at any Yakima School.

The district does not permit the use of personal electronic devices (including cell phones) during the school hours for students in grades P-12. If a parent or guardian wishes his/her child to have a cell phone, it must remain out of sight and turned OFF. It may be turned on and operated only before and after the regular school day unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger or a school administrator authorizes the student to use the device.

*One exception to the procedure for students in grades 9-12 *may* be during their assigned lunch period. (each school will make this determination)

1. Prohibited Use

- 1.2. Sending an email, text message, or other communication that harasses, intimidates, threatens, bullies, or discriminates against another individual. Using such devices for any form of “cyber-bullying”, other unwanted or unsolicited electronic communications, or other communications that otherwise cause a disruption to the learning environment
- 1.3. Answer incoming texts, phone calls, or in-app communication. Use of social media sites, apps, or games. (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.)
- 1.4. Using a camera device at school or a school-sponsored event to take, send, download, upload an unwanted (harassing, threatening, embarrassing) photo, video, or audio of anyone. Transmitting via SMS (text) messaging, app, or email any picture or video taken in class to any other person. The use of personal electronic devices with photo or video capture capabilities is prohibited in locations where such operation may violate the safety or privacy rights of another person.
- 1.5. Using such devices to engage in scholastic dishonesty. Students are also prohibited from using a device to capture, record, and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, or cheating. Likewise, students are prohibited from using devices to receive such information. Students may not take any

picture, video, or text of any class assignment or presentation without staff permission.

- 1.6. Using such devices to save personal or non-school related files to a district-owned computer.
- 1.7. Students may not enable portable hotspot functionality at ANY time during the school day or tether a district-owned computer to a cell phone.
- 1.8. USB charging from district-owned devices or other charging of devices using district resources.
- 1.9. Students shall not send, share, view or possess pictures, text messages, emails or other inappropriate material depicting sexually explicit conduct, illegal activity, drug culture, violence, etc., as defined in RCW 9.68A.011, in electronic or any other form on a personal electronic device, while the student is on school grounds, at school sponsored events, or on school buses or vehicles provided by the district.
- 1.10. Hacking, cracking, vandalizing, the introduction of viruses, worms, Trojan horses, time bombs, and/or changes to hardware or software tools.
- 1.11. Unauthorized network access, attempted access, scanning, or packet capture.
- 1.12. Use of a device (personally owned or otherwise) on a school bus that may interfere with the supervision and safety of the bus and its passenger(s).

Students are responsible for devices they bring to school. The district shall not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of personal electronic devices brought onto school property or to school sponsored events. Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning the appropriate use of personal electronic devices.

When a school administrator has reasonable suspicion based on objective and articulable facts that a student is using a personal electronic device in a manner that violates the law or school/district procedures, the official may confiscate the device. The personal electronic device may only be returned to the student's parent or legal guardian or given to law enforcement.

By bringing a personal electronic device to school or school-sponsored events, the student and their parent/guardian consent to the search of the device when school officials have a reasonable suspicion, based on objective and articulable facts, that such a search will reveal a violation of the law or school rules. The scope of the search will be limited to the violation of which the student is accused. Results that contain content or images that violate state or federal laws will be referred to law enforcement.

Students who violate this procedure will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion. Possession of a personal electronic device by a student is considered to be a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this procedure, or otherwise engages in misuse of the device so as to violate school rules, district procedure or law. Violations may result in disciplinary action. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to bring a personal device to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.

Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to contact their child during the school day is by calling the school office.

Cross Reference:

(cf: 3200 – Student Rules, Regulations and Conduct: Discipline)

(RCW 28A.320.135).

Adoption Date:

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