

Pottsgrove Middle School: Electronics Use Guidelines

In accordance with PGSD policy, local school principals can set guidelines for the use of cell phones and/or electronic devices on school grounds. **Pottsgrove Middle School's first priority is to create a robust, relevant, and engaging learning environment for all students, teachers and staff.** We understand that electronic media are a valuable component in our modern world. We wish to encourage the appropriate use of technologies to enhance the curriculum and create engaging learning environments. We understand electronic devices can either enhance or distract the learning goals in our planned curriculum.

With this context in mind the following summary of regulations has been developed to guide the use of student-owned electronic devices at PGMS:

- Use in the library or classroom is not allowed unless it is appropriate and permission is granted by the teacher/supervisor. Be sure your electronic communication device is on **silent mode or off and out of sight** during class time, **unless the teacher grants permission for use.**
- Free use zones are designated within the school and exist at the discretion of the school administration.
- Electronic devices (audio and visual) may not be used in a manner that will jeopardize the privacy or safety of either staff or students.
- The use of electronic devices such as audio or video recording devices in rest rooms, locker rooms and health office is strictly forbidden.
- Students who use electronic devices in an inappropriate manner will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school. Electronic devices may also be confiscated and require parent pickup.
- Additionally, electronic devices (audio and visual) are not to be used in any manner that will jeopardize the integrity of any assignment, assessment or testing situation. Any violation of this provision will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
- During an emergency situation, electronic devices are not to be used unless otherwise directed by the administration.
- Be **respectful** of staff members and peers while using electronic communication devices. Under no circumstances should the devices be used in a manner deemed disruptive to the smooth operation of the computer network, school or individual classroom.
- Make sure it is an **appropriate time** to answer or view a call or a text message. Appropriate times would include before school, lunch, and after school
- Be sure to use your electronic device in a **safe manner**: *Walking while texting is not safe.*
- Under no circumstances should 3G or 4G be active while in school and the school will not take responsibility for any charges incurred. All Internet searching/texting/email conducted on a student-owned device while in school must access the Internet through the district's designated WIFI network only.
- Students who choose to use personal electronic devices under these terms and conditions do so at their own risk. Pottsgrove School District will NOT assume responsibility for their loss, damage or theft. Pottsgrove staff will not troubleshoot or repair any student-owned device.
- See Board Policy 851 (AUP) and 237 (Use of Electronic Devices) for additional information and restrictions.

In 2011-2012 PGMS Student Handbook...

Procedures for Cell Phone/Electronic Devices

Students are permitted to use a cell phone/electronic device at certain times during the school day, or with authorization from a teacher or administrator. However, if a student's cell phone or electronic device causes a distraction to the educational process, the following discipline will be administered. The phone/electronic device will be taken from the student and secured in the main office.

First offense: Verbal warning by teacher. Phone returned to student at end of school day.

Second offense: 1 Detention assigned by teacher and phone must be picked up by parent.

Third offense: 1 Day ISS and phone must be picked up by parent.

The Pottsgrove School District is not liable for any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices that are brought to school. Students are encouraged to consider the risks of bringing electronic devices to school.