

Barnhill Memorial School – Electronic Devices Policy

Trial period – May/June 2013

Context:

Electronic devices, such as iPods and cell phones have become a mainstay in today's society and can also be a useful tool within a classroom in that they can be used for such things as web browsing, information sharing, voice recording, calculating, and so on.

Many experts predict that in the next few years all students will use some form of handheld device in their classes as an integral part of their learning.

Some students maintain that they find listening to music to be helpful in terms of focusing during independent work. Providing students with the opportunity to utilize these devices in a positive, responsible way supports our efforts to teach students to learn to make positive decisions. Banning electronic devices does not help students learn to use these tools appropriately – and enforcing the ban can become a distraction from more important matters.

Policy:

Electronic devices (iPods, cell phones, personal laptops, tablets, etc.) can be carried at all times, but can only be used at the following times:

- Before 8:30 in the morning
- During morning break – 10:40 – 10:50
- During noon hour – 12:10 – 12:50
- After 3:00
- During classroom when given permission by the classroom teacher
- iPods, cell phones are not permitted to be used during detention – and personal computers only at the discretion of the supervising teacher.
- Devices are not to be used during transition times between classes

General Expectations (Cell Phones): should not be used for social calls; ringers must always remain on silent; any texting during break times should be in the form of information sharing or positive social messaging.

General Expectations (iPods): earphones must be used. Earphones must be removed when speaking to an adult. Volume must be set so that only the individual with the iPod can hear.

Personal electronic devices **are not permitted to access the school network.**

Inappropriate Use includes:

- Not following adult instructions/classroom policy
- Using the device in a negative way towards others
- Taking photos/videos except for educational purposes with teacher permission

Progressive Consequences for Inappropriate Use:

- The first instance will result in the device being sent to the office where it can be picked up at the end of that day.
- The second instance will result in an office referral, parent contacted, and removal of privilege for three school days and confiscation until a parent picks up the devices from the school office.
- The third instance will result in loss of the privilege for a longer period of time (the length will depend on the circumstances) as well as parent contact.
- Any incident deemed serious enough could result in the immediate loss of this privilege for an extended period of time.
- Use of electronic devices for a negative purpose may result in suspension.
- Refusal to follow adult instructions with respect to the use of an electronic devices may result in suspension.

Note: The school assumes no responsibility for damage, loss, etc. for any electronic devices students choose to bring to school.