

Effective Date: 4/17/12	500-25 Use of Cell Phones, Digital Imaging Devices, and Other Personal Electronic Devices
Revision Date: 6/18/19, 3/23/21	Approved by: DPSA Board
Last Reviewed 3/18/21	

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess, including but not limited to cell phones, digital picture/video cameras and or camera phones, personal digital assistants, iPods, MP3s, pagers, and earbuds and other personal electronic devices.

General Statement of Policy

Duluth Public Schools Academy holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity and responsible use of existing and emerging technologies. Students who possess devices at school or school sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community.

Cell phones and personal electronic devices shall be turned off and stowed securely away during school hours unless explicitly permitted or requested by a teacher or other staff for academic purposes.

Standards for Responsible Use at School, on Buses, or at School Activities

A. Respect for the Educational Environment

1. Cellular phones and other personal electronic devices shall be turned off and kept out of sight during instructional time.
2. Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment.
3. Cellular phones or other personal electronic devices should be turned off and kept out of sight in classrooms and during the school day in computer labs, testing areas, and during fine arts performances or assemblies.
4. Students will not be allowed to leave class in response to electronic devices.
5. With prior approval of the building administrator, teachers may permit the purposeful use of personal electronic devices in support of curricular objectives. If such permission is granted, students shall not share internet connectivity or resources from their cell phone to other devices via hotspot functionality and/or tethering. .
7. In the case of medical necessity or emergency, a student shall be permitted to possess or use a cell phone or other personal electric device provided the student receives advanced authorization from the Head of School or designee.

B. Respect for Privacy Rights

1. Students shall not photograph or videotape other individuals at school or at school activities without their knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena such as sporting events or public performances.
2. Students shall not email, post to the internet, or otherwise electronically transmit images of other individuals taken at school without their expressed written consent.
3. State law strictly prohibits the use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices in locker rooms and restrooms.

C. Assuring Academic Integrity

Students shall not use cellular phones or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.

D. Compliance with Other District Policies

Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices must not violate any other District Policy including those regarding student privacy, copyright, cheating, plagiarism, civility, student behavior, or harassment. If a violation occurs involving more than one district policy, consequences for each may apply.

Violations of This Policy

A. Inappropriate use of cellular phone or other electronic device

An employee shall direct the student to turn off the device and to store it appropriately.

B. Repeated infractions

Repeated infractions will be considered disruptive, disorderly, or insubordinate behaviors. Consequences of inappropriate use of cellular phones or other electronic devices that are in violation of other district policies can be referenced in the student discipline policy.

C. Severe or illegal infractions shall result in student referral to the office. Administration may confiscate the device, notify parents and/or police when appropriate. If cellular phones or other electronic devices are suspected to be used in the violation of other district policies or used in the process of illegal activity, the contents may be considered evidence and reviewed by school administration. Confiscated devices will be returned to a parent/guardian after the school day unless legal implications require otherwise.