

STUDENT PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to maintain a safe and orderly school community, and further recognizes that computers and mobile communication devices can be used inappropriately to disrupt the educational setting. Portable electronic devices are a significant distraction and obstruct the educational process. A mobile communication device is defined as any type of electronic device that has the potential for communicating via our District Network Infrastructure (wired Ethernet port or Wireless Access Point) or by "cell service" directly to a cellular carrier or the Internet. Mobile communication devices include but are not limited to; paging devices, cell phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, netbooks and tablet computing devices. Portable electronic devices include MP3 players, CD players, laser pointers, electronic games, handheld gaming consoles and radio/boomboxes. Therefore, the Board has established this policy to send clear guidance to parents, students, staff and the community about its expectations regarding these issues.

Electronic Device Usage is as follows:

Van Rensselaer Elementary – The use of personal electronic devices is prohibited.

Rensselaer JSHS – At the High School only, students may use portable listening devices in the cafeteria during the lunch period. These devices include iPods, MP3 players, CD Players and other equipment subject to administrative approval. Volume levels should be such that it is inaudible to other people. These devices should be stored, powered off, in lockers or in backpacks and remain there during the remainder of the school day. The district is not responsible for securing students' personal technology devices and cannot be held accountable for the loss of or damage to such devices. Mobile communication devices may not be used at any time without prior authorization from the building principal.

Parent/guardians wishing to contact their student should call the office and refrain from calling, texting or emailing them during school hours.

Portable electronic and mobile communication devices may be used, with prior approval of an administrator or teacher, when deemed appropriate for an instructional purpose and authorized by a staff member during an advisory period such as a study hall. These electronics devices include, but are not limited to; cell/smart phones, audio devices, tablet and laptop computers. Examples of appropriate instructional uses include using the device as a calculator, a planner, a note taker or for homework and/or project completion. Any internet access must be via the District's network through the web filter to ensure compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Use of any device on the District's Network infrastructure must be previously authorized by an administrator and the device must be registered with the IT Department.

Students are forbidden from transmitting, receiving, possessing or displaying content that could be classified as inappropriate and/or pornographic, or that could cause "bullying," as defined in the student code of conduct, policy # , on school property or at any school function (including athletic, curricular or co-curricular field trips). Students may not use motion or still photographic devices in school without specific authorization by a staff member. Unauthorized use of these devices in classrooms or in other areas of the school building is disruptive to the educational environment, a risk to academic integrity, and could violate personal privacy. These devices include, but are not limited to, voice recorders, digital cameras, video recorders or other devices with these capabilities. Unauthorized use of such devices will result in confiscation, parent notification, possible disciplinary consequences, including suspension, and notification of law enforcement authorities if it is believed that there has been an infraction of law. The school district will cooperate with law enforcement authorities as appropriate. Any student who receives such content has a duty to inform a school official in a timely manner. The district recognizes that not all content originates, is transmitted, displayed or received on school property, however, in cases where such content or the presence of such content causes a substantial disruption of the educational process, the district will investigate, and if deemed appropriate by the school administrator, will take disciplinary action pursuant to the District Code of Conduct - Policy #5300.

In such cases in which inappropriate material as listed above is brought to the attention of a school official, the following process will be followed:

1. Any school employee may direct a student to turn over a mobile communication device. Failure to turn over a device as directed, or failure to turn over a device in a fully functional condition will be treated as gross insubordination, and disciplinary action will be taken pursuant to the district's code of conduct.
2. If a mobile communication device is confiscated, it will remain in possession of the district until such time the matter is fully investigated, or such time as the matter is resolved, as defined by the building and/or district administrator.
3. In a case where an administrator has reasonable suspicion that the code of conduct has been violated, the confiscated mobile communication device will be searched by a school official. The search will be conducted in the company of a second school official and/or law enforcement. If at any time the district official determines that the material on the phone is pornographic and/or highly inappropriate or illegal, the district will consult law enforcement, and as deemed appropriate, the district will turn over the mobile communication device to the proper authorities. In such cases, district officials will fully comply with law enforcement and/or the district attorney's office, while simultaneously conducting its own investigation.
4. Depending on the nature of the infraction and the level of the disruption, the administrator will take appropriate disciplinary action pursuant to the District Code of Conduct – Policy #5300.