

Policy 527
Adopted: 2.18.2025
Reviewed:

STUDENT CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

I. 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 cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or camera phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), iPods, MP3s, pagers, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices capable of transmitting data or images.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Star of the North Academy holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity and responsible use of existing and emerging technologies, such as cellular phones, digital picture/video cameras and/or phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices capable of capturing and/or transmitting data or images. Students who possess and/or use such 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. Star of the North Academy is not responsible for the loss or damage of any electronic device.

III. STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE USE AT SCHOOL, ON BUSES OR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A. Respect for the educational environment

- a.** Cellular phones and other personal electronic devices are not allowed and shall be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day.
- b.** Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment.
- c.** Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices is prohibited in classrooms during the school day, Media Center and testing centers, and during fine arts performances.
- d.** Students will not be allowed to leave class in response to any electronic devices.
- e.** Cellular phones and other devices may be used appropriately and respectfully before or after the school day.
- f.** With prior approval of the school director, teachers may permit the purposeful use of personal electronic devices in support of curriculum learning objectives.
- g.** In the case of medical necessity or emergency, a student shall be permitted to possess or use a cell phone or other personal electronic device provided the student receives advanced authorization from the school director.

B. Respect for privacy rights:

- a.** Students shall not photograph or videotape other individuals at school, on the bus, or at school sponsored activities without their knowledge and/or consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena such as sporting events or public performances.

- b. Students shall not email, post to the Internet, or otherwise electronically transmit images of other individuals taken at school or on the bus without their expressed written consent.
- c. Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices is strictly prohibited 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 policies, including those regarding student privacy, copyright, cheating, plagiarism, civility, student code of conduct, electronic technologies acceptable use, or harassment. If a violation occurs involving more than one District policy, consequences for each policy will apply.

IV. VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

A. First Infraction: An employee shall direct the student to turn off the device. The employee shall then confiscate the device and turn it in to the school office where the student may retrieve it at the end of the school day. Parents will be notified.

B. Second Infraction: The second infraction shall result in confiscation of the device, which is to be turned in to the school office, notification of a parent or guardian, and a warning that the next infraction will result in the termination of the right to possess a cellular phone or any electronic device at school or on the bus for a period of 45 school days.

C. Third Infraction: The third infraction shall result in confiscation of the device, which is to be turned in to the school office, notification of a parent or guardian, and termination of the right to possess a cellular phone or any electronic device at school or on the bus for a period of 45 school days.

D. Repeated or Severe Infraction: Any violation of this policy may also, at the Director's discretion, result in additional disciplinary action.

V. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy shall be included in the Student/Parent Handbook, posted to the school website, and otherwise distributed upon request.