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Dakota Hills Middle School iPad, Personal Device and Wi-Fi Use Expectations

All Dakota Hills students in grades 6 through 8 will be issued school district iPads. These will be used in classrooms as the **only** classroom technology tool for access to Schoology, Google resources, district approved apps for learning, checking grades, submission of electronic assignments, etc.

Recently, student possession, access, and use of their own smartphones, ear buds, and music devices have become a distraction for students and a significant barrier for the classroom learning environment. The student tendency to use smartphones for social media and gaming interferes and distracts from the primary teaching and learning purpose in the classroom. Much of this is related to the age of our middle school students and the attraction to technology.

Since the classroom is for teaching and learning, and all students will have this purpose served through their iPads, all Dakota Hills classrooms will be “no phone zones.”

Dakota Hills does not allow students to have their own smartphones or ear buds with them during the school day... this includes lunch time.

Parent and School Options

Parents and students can send e-mails to students via their iPads at their g-mail address.

Know your child’s FLEX (1:30 – 2:00 PM) time session, as this is a good time for e-mails.

Support the school by not allowing convenience to become a need for mid-day communication.

Student Personal Phone Use Limitations

Students are not to possess phones from 8 AM to 3 PM... this means no phones at lunch.

Students will be able to use their iPads at lunch... this is a good time to use g-mail.

The school has three free-use public phones for student use in foyer/common areas.

When Students Can Use Their Personal Phones

Before school or after school.

DHMS has limited ability to receive and relay messages to students during the day: use g-mail via the iPad.

The school has three free-use public phones for student use in the foyer areas.

All students will be expected to leave phones and ear buds in their lockers or at home. We are instituting this expectation to protect and support the purpose of classroom learning.

Any students who have phones or ear buds from 8 AM to 3 PM will have the phone confiscated by a staff person. The phone will be brought to the office where it will be kept in a secure location with two options:

- 1) The student retrieves the phone on her/his own one week after the day the phone is confiscated, without a parent
- 2) On any school day, a parent can come to DHMS before 4 PM to retrieve the phone for her/his student

Note: On a second offense, only a parent/guardian will be able to retrieve the phone from the office (not a student)

Further, students will bear the responsibility for secure storage of smartphones in their lockers. Student devices are brought to DHMS at the risk of the student/parent. Dakota Hills assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of an electronic device brought to school and will not assume responsibility for investigating loss or theft of such items.

We ask parents to limit their need to have contact with students.

For parents, we need your support on this as we know that, at times, contact with your child during the day has been a cause for distraction in the classroom. We need parents to refrain from turning the convenience of phone/text communication into a need.

These expectations are intended to protect the educational purpose of the classroom, the security of the school's network infrastructure, and the privacy of individual persons (students, staff, families).

Terms and Conditions of Site Wi-Fi Access and Use (iPads):

Users of personal Wi-Fi devices must agree to the terms and conditions set forth in this policy in order to be able to connect their devices to the district network. It is important to note that students who connect a personal device for use via their own private data plan are still under the school's digital responsibility and citizenship expectations.

Note: To promote community-oriented social interaction between students, we do not allow the use of iPads at lunch.

Resources for DHMS Technology Expectations:

District policies include, but are not limited to, the iPad mini Student User Agreement, 503.7AR Acceptable Use of Information Technology-Students, 503.7.1P Permission for Independent Student Access to the Internet, and 503.8AR Bullying/Cyberbullying prohibition.

Student Devices are limited to iPads, school computers (laptops), and school chromebooks/tablets.

1) Students cannot use photo or video capabilities without the strict consent of a teacher or school staff.

Note: Classroom teachers will be clear with students as to when iPads can be used for photos or video as part of a classroom task. This is most often granted for pictures of class content, diagrams, notes, etc.

The spirit of this rule is that students cannot use the peer-social setting of the school to take personal pictures. Under no circumstance should another child's photo (or video) be taken. The presumption of personal and family (parent) privacy and the preservation of the learning tone of the school are paramount.

With teacher consent, examples of permissible student uses of devices in a classroom may be:

- to complete an online task via Googledocs, Naiku, Kahoot, Quizlet, etc. assessment
- to work on electronic flash cards for Word Wisdom
- to access a teacher-directed web resource or use of a district approved iPad app

2) Students cannot use the school Wi-Fi for non-educational purposes.

Note: This is a matter of preservation of the learning mission of the school. It is also a matter of practicality as use of a Wi-Fi network "point" is reserved for use by district-issued iPads, not personal phones.

DHMS has the right to examine the privately owned student device and search its contents if there is a reasonable suspicion that school and/or district policies or local, state, and/or federal laws have been violated.

Violation of school or district policies, local, state, and/or federal laws while using a personal electronic device or while on the district wireless network will result in appropriate disciplinary and/or legal action as specified in the *Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*, district policy, as well as by local, state, and/or federal law.

Outcomes at School:

A student who misuses either a personal or school-issued device at school may forfeit the ability to have them or use them at school. Any difficulty accessing online student resources would become part of this outcome.

Dakota Hills Technology Use Philosophy:

As students now grow up in a technology-saturated world, our goal is to harness the power of technology for school purposes, but to also teach digital citizenship to students. Wireless devices are very powerful tools and will be used to enhance student learning. It is very important for students to use and learn ways of accessing information, creating class content products, publishing to online locations, using interactive apps for discussion of class topics, etc.

Each day, students use wireless devices to establish and further add to their own online identity. The digital "footprint" that a child creates for her/himself is a lifelong skill. How students present themselves online through apps, websites, and social media can have a lasting impact and irrevocable outcomes for students, their families, and the school.

We will work with students to recognize and protect the classroom learning environment for the school's primary purpose of teaching standards, skills, content, and critical thinking. The power of wireless technology with the positive and productive uses of technology for learning are only part of our mission. We ask for your help in teaching about the negative, harmful, and lasting effects that technology misuse can generate, and to always exercise caution when using any electronic tool or device.

