



Dakota Hills Middle School

Smartphone, Earbud, and Personal Technology Expectations

2026-27

Everything your student is asked to do using technology will occur via their school issued iPad.

Student Expectations:

- Students are not to have or use smartphones, smartglasses, headphones, earbuds (of any kind), smart glasses, or personal tech devices at all from 8:20 AM to 3:10 PM (*“in hand means in use”*)
- This includes classrooms, hallways, lavatories, locker rooms... everywhere, no exceptions
- Students are expected to store their own devices
- Smart watches (Apple watches) may be subject to these same outcomes if students are found to misuse them during school for distracting or non-educational activity.

Rationale for Student Expectations on Personal Tech Devices (mainly phones, earbuds):

- To support student learning, free from distractions and interference of tech devices
- To protect the school and classrooms from the negative impacts of smartphones and personal devices
- To help students distinguish and use technology appropriately
- To keep the school free of the negative impacts of social media, messaging, etc.

Outcomes at School:

A student who has a personal device in hand will be considered to be using it. This will result in the item (smartphone, earbuds, personal tech devices, etc.) being brought to the school office. For a confiscated item:

- The student can retrieve the item on their own one week later
- A parent can come to school to retrieve the item at any time (office closes at 4:00 PM)

Pre-school and start-of-school communication and expectations will be clear and given in multiple settings. These expectations will be in place on the first day of school.

Needs of Parents/Guardians:

Support the expectation that your child comes to school for classroom learning and a positive schooling experience that is not dependent or related to *personal* devices. Help the school by not sending messages to your student's personal smartphone between 8:20 AM and 3:10 PM.

Instead, use your child's school e-mail address (ex: 537912@apps.district196.org), as they may access this via their school-issued iPad e-mail.

Communication:

- Back-to-School Mailing (this document)
- Parent Handbook Information (expanded background and detail on page 6, posted online)
- Start of year grade level briefing with DHMS administration (review of school rules)
- Teacher instruction and reinforcement
- PA announcements, prompts and reminders