FUSD FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Cell Phones and Electronic Devices Policy for

TK-8 Schools

Introduction

To promote a focused and engaging learning environment, students are expected to be fully present in their classes and school activities. This policy establishes guidelines for student use of cell phones and electronic devices during school hours. It is designed to minimize distractions, support student engagement, and ensure compliance with school safety and communication protocols. The following outlines the expectations for cell phone and electronic device use, which will be reviewed with students and parents annually.

Use Restrictions

Students may bring cell phones and electronic devices to school; however, these devices must be powered off and stored out of sight from arrival until departure, except when explicitly authorized by school personnel for instructional purposes or in the event of a life-threatening emergency. All non-emergency communication must be routed through the school office.

Classroom and Emergency Use

- Cell phones and electronic devices may only be used in classrooms when explicitly authorized by the teacher for educational purposes. Students should refer to the teacher's course syllabus.

  Definition of Educational Purposes

  "Educational purposes" refers to the use of electronic devices under teacher supervision for activities that directly support instructional goals. Examples include:

  - Accessing digital textbooks or learning platforms (e.g., Microsoft Teams, School Email)
  - Taking notes, conducting research for class assignments or projects
  - Using educational apps or tools (e.g., calculators, language learning apps, coding platforms)
  - Viewing teacher-approved instructional videos or multimedia content

- In the event of a life-threatening emergency, students may use their personal devices only ***if school staff are not present or immediately available to respond.***
- Whenever possible, emergency communication should be coordinated through school personnel to ensure an accurate and timely response. A life-threatening emergency is defined as any situation in which a person's life is in immediate danger—such as severe injury, serious medical conditions (e.g., seizures or loss of consciousness), or active threats like fire or violence—requiring urgent action.

- Parents who need to reach their child during instructional time should call the school office. Staff will coordinate communication to minimize disruptions.

Filming and Photography

- Filming and photography on campus are permitted only during designated times and for approved school-related activities, such as class projects, performances, or events.
- Unauthorized filming or photography may result in disciplinary action, including device confiscation and loss of privileges.

School-Related Off-Campus Activity Cell Phone Use

- Students may not use personal cell phones or electronic devices during school-sponsored off-campus activities (e.g., field trips, academic competitions, performances, or community service events) unless explicitly authorized by a supervising adult.
- This includes making calls, texting, using apps, or taking photos and videos.
- Exceptions may include using devices for navigation, emergency contact, or event-specific instructions, and must be clearly communicated by staff prior to or during the activity.

Policy Violations and Consequences

Failure to comply with this policy will result in disciplinary actions as follows:

1. First Infraction: Temporary confiscation of the device with a verbal warning.
2. Second Infraction: Confiscation of the device and return at the end of the school day.
3. Subsequent Infractions: Parent/guardian retrieval of the device from the school office during designated hours, with potential restrictions on future device privileges.

Confiscation and Security Protocols

- School personnel may confiscate any device that is used in violation of this policy.
- When a device is confiscated, it must be stored in a secure location. Staff must document the following details:
    - The date and time of confiscation
    - The reason for confiscation
    - The name of the staff member who confiscated the device
    - The date and time the device was returned
    - The name of the person to whom it was returned
- Access to confiscated devices shall be restricted to the staff member who confiscated the device or designated personnel, to ensure secure handling and maintain chain of custody

Accountability & Security

- Students are fully responsible for the care and security of their personal electronic devices.
- The school is not liable for any loss, theft, or damage to devices brought to campus.
- Families are strongly encouraged to avoid sending high-value electronic items to school.

Exemptions

- Accommodations may be granted by the site administrator for students with documented health-related needs that require device access during school hours. Appropriate documentation must be provided and reviewed.

Compliance

- Students are expected to follow all staff directives related to this policy. Repeated violations may result in progressive disciplinary action, including the revocation of device privileges for the remainder of the school year.
- This policy is reviewed annually and may be updated to reflect district regulations and evolving best practices in student safety, digital citizenship, and academic integrity.

Final Thought

This policy is designed to foster responsible digital habits while promoting student engagement and well-being. By minimizing distractions and encouraging participation in school activities, we are preparing students to develop the self-discipline and social skills necessary for success in high school and beyond.