Personal Technology Device Expectations

Mapleton Online is committed to protecting instructional time, maintaining student engagement, and helping students develop the self-management skills needed to learn independently. Because Mapleton Online is a fully online school, students are expected to develop the ability to independently manage personal technology devices and digital distractions throughout the school day.

The goal of these expectations is to help students develop self-control, responsibility, healthy technology habits, and readiness to learn. Students should manage personal technology devices in a way that allows them to give their full attention to learning.

School-issued technology and personal technology are different. School-issued devices, such as a district-provided laptop or Chromebook, are essential tools for accessing instruction, participating in live classes, completing assignments, and communicating with teachers and staff. Students are expected to have their school-issued device available and ready for learning throughout the school day and to follow all District and school expectations for its appropriate use. **Personal technology devices** are devices owned or controlled by the student or family, such as cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets, personal laptops, gaming devices, cameras, or other electronic devices.

During instructional time, personal technology devices should be turned off or placed in silent mode and secured away unless the device is needed for an approved educational, medical, assistive, or other school-approved purpose. Teachers may authorize the use of personal technology devices for specific educational activities, and students are expected to use devices only for the intended learning purpose. Personal devices may also be permitted for other school-approved purposes, including when a student is participating in an approved activity outside the school campus, such a field trip.

Because Mapleton Online students learn from home and may have different schedules and environments, students are expected to make responsible choices about personal technology use during transitions, breaks, and lunch. Students are encouraged to take appropriate screen breaks; however, personal device use should not interfere with learning, participation, schoolwork, or the learning environment.

When students do not follow these expectations, staff will prioritize teaching, redirection, reflection, and restorative practices whenever possible. Repeated or significant violations may result in additional school-based consequences consistent with District policy.

Students are responsible for knowing and following school and classroom expectations for personal technology use.

Emergency Communication: Mapleton Online has established school and District communication methods for emergencies. Students and families should use school-approved communication channels rather than relying on personal technology devices for emergency communication during the school day.

Mapleton Online recognizes that responsible technology use is an important life skill. The ultimate goal is for students to leave school able to recognize distractions, regulate their own technology use, make responsible choices, and use technology in ways that support their learning, relationships, and well-being.