

Blackfoot School District No. 55 recognizes the value and importance of electronic communication, online presence, and innovative technology tools to enhance the learning experience and work environment within the district. However, student use of personal electronic communication and entertainment devices during school hours may interfere with or disrupt the educational process.

DEFINITIONS

“Electronic communication and entertainment devices” include, but are not limited to, personal cell phones, tablets, personal computers, laptops, iPads, iPods, Blackberries, pagers, MP3 players, and other similar devices or media players, without regard to the commercial name or manufacturer of the device, whether handheld, car models, laptop or other computer usage, or combinations of any of the above.

“Social media networks” include, but are not limited to, websites, web logs (blogs), wikis, social networks, online forums, virtual worlds, and any other social media generally available to the public that does not fall within the district’s technology network (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, MySpace, blog sites, Wikipedia, etc.).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Students may not use electronic communication or entertainment devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities without prior authorization. A student may possess an electronic communication or entertainment device in school, on school property, and at school-sponsored activities, provided that during school hours the device remains off (not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

Students may not use electronic communication or entertainment devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities to access and/or view Internet websites, including social media networks, that are otherwise blocked to students at school or to take part in any activity prohibited in the district’s acceptable use policy (see Policy No. 698, Acceptable Use of Internet, Computer and Network Resources for Students).

The use of electronic communication or entertainment devices with built-in cameras is prohibited at all times in locker rooms, bathrooms, and locations in which inappropriate or privacy violating images may be obtained.

The district is not responsible for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to electronic communication or entertainment devices brought onto its property.

Parents/guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school's main office. Students may use designated school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying, including, but not limited to, using any electronic communication device to convey a message in any format (audio or video, text, graphics, photographs, or any combination thereof) that intimidates, harasses, or is otherwise intended to harm another individual is prohibited.

EXCEPTIONS

Electronic communication or entertainment devices may be used in the following circumstances:

1. With prior approval from the building principal.
2. During approved classroom instruction.
3. During an emergency situation involving the immediate health/safety of a student or other individual(s).

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION

Possession of electronic communication or entertainment devices by a student is a privilege, which may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

For the first violation, the device will be confiscated until the end of the school day at which time the student may reclaim it from the building principal's office.

Subsequent violations of this policy will result in confiscation of the device for a period of time to be determined by the building principal. Devices confiscated on two (2) or more occasions must be reclaimed from the building principal's office by the student with his/her parent or guardian present.

The district will use reasonable care to safeguard confiscated devices by designating a locked storage area, but does not assume liability in the event such confiscated device is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Repeated violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Section 33-512 – Governance of Schools

ADOPTED: June 19, 2008

AMENDED: December 16, 2010
July 18, 2016