

Electronic Device Policy

Purpose

Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning (the "School") recognizes that various forms of electronic devices have become a common means of communication and information access. The School seeks to ensure that the use of electronic devices, both privately-owned devices and devices owned by the School, does not cause harm or otherwise interfere with the learning, safety, or security of students or employees. The following policy has therefore been established by Promontory School regarding the use of electronic devices on School premises and at School-sponsored activities and is in compliance with Utah Administrative Rule R277-495 and other applicable laws.

I. Definitions

"Electronic device" means electronic media, communication devices, transmitters, receivers or players, including but not limited to mobile phones (with or without video or picture-taking capability), electronic music or video players, iPods, tablets, iPads, and electronic gaming devices. Device also include any current or emerging wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing.

"School day" means the hours that make up the School day according to the School's schedule.

"School-sponsored activities" means fieldwork, curricular and extracurricular activities, and extended School-sponsored trips or activities, including School-provided transportation to and from such activities.

II. Student Use of Electronic Devices

Possession & Use: Electronic devices may only be possessed and used by students during the School day and during School-sponsored activities in accordance with the following standards:

1. Students may carry and possess privately-owned electronic devices to and from school.
2. Privately-owned electronic devices must be turned off and kept in backpacks or lockers during school hours except under the supervision of the teacher in the classroom.
3. At no time may electronic devices be used on the playground, in the lunchroom, or in the field, except at the discretion of the teacher.

Prohibitions:

1. Electronic devices may not be used to threaten, bully, humiliate, harass, and intimidate, students, employees, volunteers, visitors, or guests.
2. Electronic devices may not be used to violate local, state or federal law.
3. Electronic devices may not be used to view, access, download, store, or transmit pornography or other obscene or inappropriate material.
4. Electronic devices may not be used during quizzes, tests, or standardized assessments unless specifically allowed by law, student Individual Education Plan, or assessment directions, or in connection with other legitimate circumstances determined by the director.

Exceptions:

With prior approval of the director, the above prohibitions may be relaxed under the following circumstances:

1. The use is specifically required to implement a student's current and valid IEP.
2. The use is at the direction of a teacher for educational purposes.
3. The use is determined by the director to be necessary for other special circumstances, health-related reasons, or emergency.

Disciplinary Action: If a student violates this policy, the electronic device may be confiscated by an employee. When an employee confiscates a privately-owned electronic device, reasonable measures will be taken by him/her to label and secure the device and turn it over to a school administrator as soon as the employee's duties permit. A confiscated, privately-owned electronic device will be released/returned to the student on the first confiscation. On subsequent confiscations, electronic devices will be released/returned to the student's parents/guardians after the student has complied with any other disciplinary consequence that is imposed.

The School may contact law enforcement if School employees believe that a student has used an electronic device in connection with a violation of criminal law, and criminal penalties may arise from inappropriate use of electronic devices.

III. Other Provisions

Picture taking or sound or video recording by students is prohibited in School unless authorized by a teacher or the director. Picture taking or sound or video recording by students is prohibited in private areas of the School such as washrooms, counseling sessions, and dressing areas.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. The School shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or unauthorized calls made with an electronic device. If devices are loaned to or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

Parents, guests and visitors to the School may use electronic devices at School and at School-sponsored activities only in accordance with rules established by the director. Such individuals who use the School's electronic resources may not use such resources to access inappropriate material or information.