

[This policy should be posted in all buildings and must be posted prominently on the School's publicly accessible web site.]

Policy No. 4440

Use of Electronic Communications Devices and Cameras

The objective of this policy is to strengthen the School's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

"Electronic communications device" (ECD) is defined in Ohio law to mean any device that is powered by batteries or electricity and that is capable of receiving, transmitting, or receiving and transmitting communications between two or more persons or a communication from or to a person. Examples of ECDs include, but are not limited to, cellular phones, smart phones and tablets, smart watches, video games, walkie-talkies, pagers, and other similar electronic devices. "Camera devices" may also be ECDs, and include, but are not limited to, digital cameras, cellular phones with cameras, camcorders, and other imaging devices.

Rule.

Students are prohibited from using ECDs during the instructional day in accordance with this policy.

"Instructional day" means

[X] from the beginning of the first scheduled class period to the end of the last scheduled class period at the end of the school day (i.e., from "bell to bell").

Exceptions.

A student may possess and use an ECD to monitor or address a health concern if the School receives a written statement from the student's physician requiring such use.

A student may use an ECDs in accordance with a written IEP or Section 504 plan for learning or to monitor or address a health concern.

[X] Students may use ECDs for student learning upon limited, prior approval by an authorized teacher or administrator.

[X] Students may use ECDs during an active threat or emergency in accordance with Policy 2620, School Safety, Emergency Management Plan.

User Liability.

The School and its employees are not responsible for theft, loss, damage, or destruction of ECDs and camera devices brought on to school property. Students are solely responsible for devices they bring on school property.

Discipline.

At no time shall ECDs or camera devices be used in a manner disruptive to the instructional process, disruptive to the School's academic mission, or inconsistent with Policy No. 4430, Internet and Technology Use, Policy No. 4103, Harassment, and Policy No. 4104, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying.

Students shall keep their ECDs and camera devices in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the School, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action and the student may lose his/her privilege to bring the ECD onto school property and/or have his/her device confiscated. If confiscated, the student shall cooperate in surrendering the ECD, and the device will only be returned to the student's parent or guardian. While confiscated, the School may further inspect the ECD if it reasonably believes the student has violated other policies in accordance with Policy 4490, Search and Seizure.

A student disciplined for harassment, intimidation, or bullying while using an ECD (pursuant to the Code of Conduct and/or Policy Nos. 4103, Harassment, and 4104, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) will lose his/her privilege to bring the ECD onto School property *[X] for 20 days and [X] for the remainder of the school year with additional infractions.*

Ohio: R.C. 3313.753

Cross Reference: Policy No. 4103, Harassment; Policy No. 4103, Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying; Policy No. 4430, Internet & Technology Acceptable Use.