

Students

Electronic Devices

Cellular Phones/Electronic Devices

The Marlborough Board of Education (Board) recognizes the importance of technology in the educational setting. While cellular telephones and other wireless devices may serve as a form of technology, they may also pose a significant distraction to the learning environment if used without the direction of the teachers. There is a growing body of evidence that suggests student access to cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be detrimental to student emotional wellbeing and academic growth. Therefore, the use of electronic communication devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right.

Students are prohibited from using electronic communication devices, except as provided within this policy. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following devices used for personal communication and entertainment: cell phone, smartphone, smart watches, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), iPod, iPad, laptop computer, tablet computer or other similar electronic device.

During instructional time, from the official school start time to end of day school dismissal, which includes class period, lunch period and recess (elementary schools), and other specified items as determined by administration, electronic communication devices must be kept powered-off and in lockers/coat closet in the classroom unless:

- a. Permission is granted by an administrator;
- b. Use of the device is provided in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 education plan; or
- c. It is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Parents should not expect to communicate directly with their children using their devices during designated school time. Parents who need to communicate with their child in the case of an emergency should call the school office and communicate with school personnel the nature of their emergency who will then communicate as appropriate with the student impacted by the emergency.

Phones and/or electronic communication devices and accessories (i.e. earbuds, headphones, etc.) should remain in lockers/cost closet in the classroom and be turned off unless in use pursuant to this policy. Such phones and other electronic communication devices may be used in compliance with the individual school's guidelines for usage.

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Electronic Devices

Cellular Phones/Electronic Devices (continued)

Electronic communication devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment as outlined in the Acceptable Use Permission Form – Portable Electronic Devices, including time spent on all district transportation, violates students conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- Using the device to take photographs;
- Cheating;
- Creating, sending, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting);
- Inappropriate use of cell phones and/or electronic communication devices at other school activities or events, on or off campus, outside of the school day.

Marlborough Elementary School may establish further guidelines concerning the inappropriate use of cell phones/electronic devices if the violation of this policy does not also involve more serious disciplinary infractions. Cell phones/electronic devices are a privilege and not a right and may therefore be confiscated by a District administrator, teacher, paraprofessional, coach, or bus driver when a violation of District policy and/or procedures for such devices occurs.

The District is not responsible for the loss, theft or damage of any electronic device brought to school. If the device is confiscated for violation of District policy and/or procedures, the District, and its employees shall not be responsible for safekeeping, loss, or damage. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's device or account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

(cf. 5114 – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. 5131 – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.8 – Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.82 – Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material)

(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)

(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)

(cf. 5144 – Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5145.5 – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-233j Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

Policy adopted: June 22, 2006
Policy revised: April 29, 2010
Policy revised: June 20, 2019

MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Marlborough, Connecticut

Acceptable Use Permission Form - Portable Electronic Devices

Any parent/guardian who wishes that their child in **Grades 3 – 6** use a personally owned electronic device within Marlborough Public Schools must read and sign this agreement and submit to the classroom teacher prior to use.

1. The student takes full responsibility for his/her device. The school is not responsible for the security of the device.
2. The student is responsible for the proper care of their personal device, including any costs of repair, replacement or any modifications needed to use the device at school.
3. The school reserves the right to inspect a student's personal device if there is reason to believe that the student has violated Board policies, administrative procedures, school rules or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal device.
4. Violations of any Board policies, administrative procedures, or school rules involving a student's personally owned device may result in the loss of use of the device in school and/or disciplinary action.
5. The student must comply with the teacher's request to stop using a device when asked.
6. The student may not use the device to record, transmit, or post photos, video or audio of a person or persons on school grounds or on the bus. Nor can any images, video or audio recorded at school be transmitted or posted at any time without the expressed permission of the individual and the teacher in charge of the activity.
7. The student should only use their device to access relevant educational information.
8. Any personal technology devices that are brought into school, whether connected to the Marlborough Elementary School network or other wireless networks (which shouldn't be utilized) must be used in accordance with our Technology Agreement and Marlborough Board of Education policies.
9. During school hours, all personal devices will use the MES wireless network – use of 3G, 4G and 5G wireless connections is not allowed.
10. Using personal devices at school requires students to:
 - a. Have signed Acceptable Use Permission Form filed in office.
 - b. Use device connected to MES network (not use 3G/4G/5G network)
 - c. Keep device on work surface, in sight, at all times, if allowed by teacher to have device out.
 - d. Use device to interact with academic tasks only.
 - e. Use only education applications selected by staff.
 - f. Keep device in backpack during school day unless staff member agrees to the use of device in the classroom.
11. Students are **NOT** allowed to:
 - a. Use personal devices on school transportation, at recess, in the cafeteria or hallway, or in academic settings without the consent of staff.
 - b. Call, text, email or electronically communicate with others from their personal device including other students, parents, guardians, friends and family during the school day, unless under the direction of the teacher.

Detach and return to classroom teacher.

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

I (student) understand and will abide by the above guidelines. I further understand that any violation of the above may result in the loss of network and/or device privileges in addition to other disciplinary action.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As a parent/guardian, I understand that my child will be responsible for abiding by the above policy and guidelines. I have read and discussed them with him/her and we understand the responsibility he/she has in the use of his/her personal device.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____