

Cell phones and electronic devices, whether for personal, recreational, communication or instructional purposes, are permitted as follows:

In academic settings (classrooms, library, labs, etc) such devices must be in the “off” or “silent” position at all times and stored out of sight except when utilized, as permitted by the instructor, as assistive technology, or as part of a student’s individual education program, as a part of the classroom instructional program, as determined by the building administrator and/or teacher.

Examples of devices which may be permitted for instructional purposes include but are not limited to calculators, “alphasmart” keyboards, laptop computers, voice recording devices, personal data organizers, cell phones, I-pods, or other technology that the instructor may find beneficial as a tool in delivery and retention of curriculum content and development of higher level thinking skills.

In non-academic settings, including at school activities or on school transportation, such devices may be used in “silent mode” provided the use of such device, as determined by the supervising staff member or bus driver, in no way disrupts, poses a safety concern or otherwise violates the District’s Code of Conduct for students.

Such devices may not be used in a manner which is potentially unsafe, illegal or otherwise might violate the District’s Code of Conduct for students. Prohibited uses include but are not limited to creating video or audio recordings of students and/or staff, or taking photographs of students and/or staff, without permission of the student and/or staff member.

Such devices may not be used for academic dishonesty or cheating.

Such devices may not be used in any manner that disrupts the academic environment, or otherwise disrupts school activities or functions.

Students may not depart a class to activate or operate such devices.

Under all circumstances students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and personal electronic devices. Miami-Yoder School District JT-60 schools shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of any such device and will not be responsible for investigation of such incidents.

If unique circumstances exist warranting the need for a student to use a cell phone or personal electronic device, on a temporary basis, outside the guidelines noted in this policy, such requests shall be submitted to the Principal in writing. The Principal’s decision shall be final in responding to such requests.

A building administrator may, at his or her discretion, impose further restrictions upon student use of personal electronic devices, including but not limited to rules prohibiting the possession of personal electronic devices in classrooms, hallways, and other locations on school property. A teacher may, upon mutual agreement with the principal, impose further restrictions upon classroom use of personal electronic devices than have been imposed by the building administrator.

Depending upon the nature and the severity of the incident, as determined by school administration, violations of the “Student Use of Cell Phones and Other Personal Electronic Devices” policy may result in disciplinary sanctions up to and including expulsion from school.

Violations shall be addressed as follows:

1st Offense: The device shall be confiscated and transferred to the appropriate school administrator. Parent/guardian shall be notified and the device may be released to the student upon the student’s signature of an acceptable use agreement.

2nd Offense: The device shall be confiscated and transferred to the appropriate school administrator. The parent shall be notified and the device may be released only to the parent/guardian, upon the parent’s/guardian’s signature of the acceptable use agreement.

3rd Offense: Third offense shall be considered disruptive behavior and defiance of authority, and may result in a minimum of one day of suspension to be served in or out of school at the discretion of school administration. Subsequent violations may result in increasing suspensions of up to three (3) days. Students classified as habitually disruptive may face sanctions such as expulsion.

Other violations may immediately incur suspensions or expulsion, depending on the event, the content of the event, and the impact of the event on students or staff. Violations of law associated with the use of cell phones or personal electronic devices will be turned over to law enforcement officials for investigation and possible prosecution.

CROSS REFS: JIC and subcodes, Student Conduct
 JIH, Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests
 JK and subcodes, Student Discipline

ADOPTED: November 8, 2006
REVISED: August 13, 2009