

The Board of Education recognizes that there are personal electronic devices (e.g. phones, laptops and other electronic devices) that have educational applications and can be a positive means to facilitate communication and instruction. These devices shall be allowed to be used by students in grades 9-12, and only in classrooms for students in grades 6-8 when they are part of a lesson and under the direction of a teacher. Recognizing that the display and/or use of such devices can cause disruption to the educational process, misuse of any electronic devices may result in a loss of privileges and possible disciplinary action.

Byram Hills provides appropriate and adequate technology to support classroom instruction. The District is aware that not every student may have access to the same level of personal technology, and will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by permitting the use of personal devices. The use of student-owned devices is optional.

In addition to the following provisions for the use of personal electronic devices, students will be expected to comply with the Acceptable Use Policy (4528) and all class and school rules while using personal electronic devices. The permitted use of a personal electronic device on school grounds and during school hours will be consistent with the use of District computer facilities and the District Local Area Network (LAN), with the goal of maintaining the highest standards of acceptable technology use.

**The Use of Personal Electronic Devices is Subject to the Following Provisions:**

1. Students who bring their own electronic devices must adhere to this policy, the Code of Conduct (5300), the Student Handbook, the Acceptable Use Policy for Technology and the Internet (4528) and all other District policies governing the acceptable use of technology and student conduct. The District reserves the right to collect and examine any device for: investigation; technology problems; an attack or virus infection; suspected bullying or harassment; or use otherwise inconsistent with these provisions. Electronic devices are subject to search by school administrators, and the student will be required to unlock the device at the request of the school administrator. Failure to adhere to the aforementioned policies may result in a loss of privilege. The device may be confiscated and given to the Assistant Principal, to be returned to the student following a conference with the Assistant Principal. Further discipline may result, as appropriate. The District will cooperate with law enforcement officials, as necessary.
2. The District's network filters will be applied to a device's connection to the Internet, and any attempt to bypass or interfere with the network filters is prohibited. Internet access while on school grounds is limited to District provided Wi-Fi access. Students are not allowed to use cell service to access the Internet. Students will lose the privilege of bringing a personal electronic device if the device infects the network with a virus, is used for "hacking," or it is used to alter or bypass network securities.
3. Each teacher has the discretion to allow and regulate the use of personal electronic devices in the classroom and on specific projects, consistent with all District policies.

4. In general, personal electronic devices must be in silent mode while on campus, and headphones may not be used. Faculty, staff and administrators may grant specific exceptions.
5. Personal electronic devices may not be used to record, transmit, or post unauthorized photographic images or video of a person or persons on campus, or during off campus school activities.
6. Printing from personal devices is not permitted.
7. Charging of devices is not permitted due to safety concerns, unless at a designated charging area. Personal electronic devices must be charged prior to school and may only be operated on battery while at school.
8. Students are responsible for securing their own electronic devices. The District assumes no responsibility whatsoever for stolen, lost or damaged personal electronic devices or for lost or corrupted data on those devices. This includes devices which are left with a District staff member, whether for the student's convenience or because it has been confiscated for improper use.
9. The District is not responsible for any fees or charges to a student or family account.
10. The District technology staff is not responsible for maintaining or troubleshooting student personal devices.

**Personal Electronic Devices and Testing**

In accordance with state guidelines, students are not allowed to bring cell phones or other prohibited devices into assessment locations. Test proctors, monitors and school officials shall have the right to collect cell phones or other prohibited electronic devices prior the start of any test or assessment, and hold them for the duration of the test taking time.

Admission to an assessment location will be prohibited to any student who has a cell phone or other electronic device in his or her possession and does not relinquish it or store it, as directed. Possession of electronic devices in assessment locations may result in disciplinary action.

Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) or 504 Plans that specifically require the use of an electronic device may do so as specified. In extraordinary circumstances, approval for use may be granted at the Principal's discretion.

Cross-ref: 5300, Code of Conduct  
4528 Acceptable Use Policy - Students  
State Law

Ref: *Price v. New York City Board of Education*, 16 Misc.3d 543 (2007)

Adopted: 1-28-14