

Policy 5136

Personal Electronic Devices

Purpose:

Morgan County Schools uses instructional technology as one way of enhancing our mission to teach the skills, knowledge and behaviors students will need as responsible citizens in the global community. Students learn collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking in a variety of ways throughout the school day. In an effort to develop those 21st Century skills, Morgan County Schools will allow personal devices on our guest network and school grounds for students who follow the rules and responsibilities outlined below and in the county's Acceptable Use Policy (7540.03)

The use of personal devices by students is optional, and students who do not bring their own devices will not be penalized. Alternate modes of participation will be available when necessary.

In addition to the rules outlined in these guidelines, students will be expected to comply with all class and school rules while using personal devices. When abused, privileges will be taken away. Students must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, Student Handbook, Acceptable Use Policy and all Board and state Policies.

For the purpose of this policy, "devices" will include, but are not limited to, laptops, netbooks, cell phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, tablets, and eReaders.

Principals shall have the authority to allow, prohibit or limit the use of personal electronic devices in their buildings and to set additional expectations and regulations concerning their use. In schools where students have access to personal electronic devices, teachers shall have the discretion to allow, prohibit and regulate their use in the classroom and on specific projects.

Approved devices must be in silent mode while on school campus, unless otherwise allowed by a teacher or administrator. Students may not use devices to record, transmit, or post photographic images or video of a person or persons on campus during school hours or during school activities, unless explicitly allowed by a teacher or administrator.

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Students and Parents/Guardians acknowledge that:

- The school's network filters will be applied to a device's Internet connection, and any attempt to bypass the network filters is prohibited. Students are not permitted to use VPNs or other proxies to access the internet.
- Morgan County Schools reserves the right to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing technology problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection. Students have no expectation of privacy on personal electronic devices in schools or school activities.
- Students and parents should be aware that devices are subject to search by school administrators if the device is suspected of a violation of the student code of conduct. If the device is locked or password protected, the student will be required to unlock the device at the request of a school administrator.
- Students are prohibited from bringing a device on premises that infects the network with a virus, malware, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy, or provide access to unauthorized data or information.
- Students are prohibited from processing or accessing information on school property related to "hacking," altering or bypassing network security policies.
- Printing from personal devices will not be a supported or permitted service.
- Personal devices must be charged prior to school and run on battery power while at school. Charging of devices will not be permitted at any Morgan County School.
- The best way to get in touch with your child during the school day is by calling the school office.

Each user is responsible for his/her own device and should use it responsibly and appropriately. Morgan County Schools takes no responsibility for stolen, lost, or damaged devices, including lost or corrupted data on those devices. While school employees will help students identify how to keep personal devices secure, students will have the final responsibility for securing their personal devices. Parents/guardians are encouraged to check homeowner's policies regarding coverage of personal electronic devices, as many insurance policies can cover loss or damage. Morgan County Schools is not responsible for any device or data charges that might be incurred on personal electronic devices during approved school-related use.

Users should strive to maintain appropriate bandwidth for school-related work and communications. All users will use the guest network wireless network to access the internet. Morgan County Schools does not guarantee connectivity or the quality of the connection with personal devices. The Morgan County Technology department is not responsible for maintaining or troubleshooting student devices.

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Violation of this policy can result in discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion, and notification of law enforcement authorities. In addition, if a student violates this policy, his/her cellular telephone or other any personal device may be confiscated. Under such circumstances, the cellular telephone or personal device will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequence that is imposed.