METROPOLITAN Nashville PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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June 2010
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Review
Annually

Tier-Level Usage of Personal Technology

High School

A student may possess a cellular telephone or other personal technology on school property and may use such technology during lunch and transition times. Use of personal technology during instructional periods is generally prohibited.

Middle and Elementary School

A student may possess a cellular telephone or other personal technology on school property. Use of such technology will be at the discretion of the building administrator. If the building administrator elects to allow modified use of personal technology, plans must be submitted to the appropriate tier-level Associate Superintendent or Executive Director for approval.

Schools with Special Circumstances

Administrators of schools with special circumstances, e.g., alternate learning centers, may add additional restrictions for use of personal technology with the approval of their respective Associate Superintendent or Executive Director.

Assumption of Risk

A student who brings his/her device to school shall do so at his/her own risk. No searches or investigations will be conducted for lost or stolen devices.

Use of Personal Technology during Classroom Instruction

Use of personal technology during instructional periods is prohibited except when used as an aid to instruction at the discretion of the classroom teacher and building administrator. If personal technology is used as an aid to classroom instruction, students without access to those devices will not be penalized. Personal technology may not be used for purposes which are found to be disruptive to the school environment. Disruption of the school environment shall be determined by school administration and faculty.

Personal Technology Defined
Personal technology includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones, wireless earpieces, iPods, iPads, other mp3 players, calculators, and portable gaming devices. Headphones must be used for personal technology used to play music or video.

Consequences for Violation
Possession of personal technology by a student is a privilege. This privilege will be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy. A device used outside these parameters will result in confiscation of the technology until such time as it may be at the discretion of the building administrator. While the classroom teacher may confiscate personal technology devices used in violation of this policy, those devices which are confiscated are sent to school administration. Therefore, personal technology devices may only be retrieved from office administration during designated office hours as prescribed by school administration.

A student in possession of personal technology in violation of this policy is subject to the following:

First Offense:
- Device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the discretion of the building administrator.

Second Offense:
- Device will be confiscated
- Parent conference required to retrieve device

Third Offense:
- Device will be confiscated
- Parent conference
- Disciplinary consequence at the discretion of the building administrator

Four or More Offenses:
Students in violation of this policy on four or more occasions are subject to additional consequences, which may include, but are not limited to:
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Disciplinary consequence at the discretion of the building administrator

Severe Clause:
Highly inappropriate activities, include but are not limited to:
- Communication that contains inappropriate content, profanity, intimidation or threats to others;
- Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty;
- Taking or showing inappropriate photographs/video;

- Communicating with groups or individuals in a manner that causes a disruption of the school environment; and/or
- Refusal to relinquish phone to persons of authority upon request.

Violation of the severe clause may result in suspension from school for up to 10 days regardless of the number of previous offenses.

Safekeeping of Confiscated Cell Phones
Personal technology which is confiscated must be taken to school administration and will be secured in a safe location. The device may not be searched while in possession of the school unless the building administrator has individualized suspicion, consent or waiver by the owner of the device, or extenuating circumstances that pose a grave security threat.

References/Authority
Student Code of Conduct
TCA §49-2-203
SP 6.110 Bullying and Harassment