

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES POLICY

It is the policy of the Fitzgerald Public Schools to maintain the best possible learning environment, for all students, which is free from preventable external distractions and disruptions including any and all distractions and/or disruptions from electronic devices not authorized for classroom use.

PROCEDURE

Students may possess a cellular telephone or other electronic communication device while at school, provided that during school hours and on a school vehicle the cellular phone or electronic communication device remains off and out of sight, unless authorized school personnel or building guidelines have given students permission to use them. The use of picture or video taking capability of any electronic communication device at any time during instructional hours may result in confiscation, disciplinary action, and/or legal repercussions. Fitzgerald Public Schools will not be responsible for theft, loss or damage to any electronic device(s) carried onto any school property.

- Elementary Schools:
 - **Schofield Early Childhood Center and Westview Lower Elementary Schools:** Students will not use their personal electronic device (s) at any time during school hours. Students will not be permitted to use their electronic device during passing time between classes, at lunch time, or during any other time while out of their classroom. All personal electronic devices, carried by students, must be turned “off” during school hours. Placing the device on silent alert, vibrate or other settings is not acceptable. Any personal electronic device, carried by a student, that creates a distraction or disturbance at any time during school hours will be immediately confiscated and returned to only a parent/guardian. Repeated offenses may result in further disciplinary measures.
 - **Mound Park Upper Elementary School:** Cell phones may be used on school grounds before school and after school. Cell phone use is prohibited in classrooms, restrooms, and school offices, unless otherwise communicated to students with a green light cell phone displayed by a teacher. During any instructional time, cell phones must remain out of sight and in silent mode, this is indicated by a red light cell phone displayed by teachers. During school hours, if a parent/guardian needs to get a message to their student, they are welcome to call the office at 586 757-7590 and the message will be delivered to the student as soon as possible and in a manner that will not disrupt learning. Students are permitted to use their cell phones after dismissal at 3:11 p.m. Any personal

electronic device, carried by a student, that creates a distraction or disturbance at any time during school hours will be immediately confiscated and returned to only a parent/guardian.

- **Chatterton Middle and Fitzgerald High Schools**

- Recognize that technology is constantly evolving and that many technology tools exist to help support students in their learning. Fitzgerald Public Schools have long prided itself on the instructional technology it provides for students, further exemplifying that commitment with the development of the 21st century classroom.
- The middle and high school buildings are divided into instructional and non-instructional areas.
- Students will be allowed to use electronic communication devices such as cell phones and mp3 players in non-instructional areas such as the cafeteria before and after school or during lunch, and in the hallways outside of class time, however, not while out of the classroom with a pass.
- Students may not charge electronic devices in a classroom or during instructional time.
- Student use of electronic communication devices in instructional areas will be at the discretion of the teacher supervising that classroom or area. The teacher will designate their classroom as “YELLOW” or “RED” room at their discretion.
 - In a “YELLOW” classroom, students can be permitted to use cell phones, mp3 players, etc. for supervised educational purposes only, at the discretion of the teacher.
 - In a “RED” classroom, students will not be permitted to use any electronic devices and may face disciplinary consequences if they fail to meet that expectation.

The use of electronic communication devices is prohibited at all times in school offices. The school will continue to prohibit the use of any video device in any restroom, locker room or other location where students and staff “have reasonable expectations of privacy.”

Inappropriate use of cell phone, use of picture or video taping, distribution, or sharing at any time will result in one or more of the following:

- Electronic device is taken for the remainder of the day and a parent/guardian may pick up device before or after school. Failure or refusal of the student to relinquish custody of the electronic device to a requesting staff member shall result in a suspension for the remainder of the day and may result in additional disciplinary action depending on the severity of the student's defiant behavior.
- Electronic device is taken for the remainder of the day and a parent/guardian may pick up device before or after school. Due to the disruption of the school environment caused by a repeat violation of this policy, the student may face disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by administration. Failure or refusal to the student to relinquish custody of the electronic device to a requesting staff member shall result in a suspension for the remainder of the day and may result in additional disciplinary action depending on the severity of the student's defiant behavior.

- If the electronic device is confiscated by a staff member for a criminal act under state or federal law, the cell phone will be released by the district to law enforcement personnel. Parents will be responsible for contacting the appropriate law enforcement agency to receive the device.

Administrators may search the electronic communication device of a student if they can articulate reasonable suspicion that the device contains evidence of any violation of state or federal law, or violations of any other provision found within this Code of Conduct.

Administrators may require students to delete photos or videos taken during instructional hours or which otherwise constitute a violation of this Code of Conduct.