OLD FORGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ELECTRONIC DEVICES

ADOPTED: March 20, 2002

REVISED: May 18, 2016

237. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. Purpose

The Board adopts this policy in order to maintain an educational environment that is safe and secure for district students and employees.

2. Definition

Electronic devices shall include all devices that can take photographs; record audio or video data; store, transmit or receive messages or images; or provide a wireless, unfiltered connection to the Internet. Examples of these electronic devices include, but shall not be limited to, radios, walkmans, CD players, iPods, MP3 players, DVD players, handheld game consoles, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), cellular telephones, BlackBerries, and laptop computers, as well as any new technology developed with similar capabilities.

3. Authority SC 1317.1

The Board prohibits **possession of** laser pointers and attachments and telephone paging devices/beepers by students in district buildings; on district property; on buses and other vehicles provided by the district; and at district-sponsored activities.

SC 510 Pol. 815 The Board prohibits **use of** personal electronic devices by students during the school day, without the expressed permission of the principal.

The district shall not be liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any electronic device brought to school by a student.

Electronic Images And Photographs

The Board prohibits the taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or other means, including but not limited to texting and e-mailing.

Because such violations may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law, the district may report such conduct to state and/or federal law enforcement agencies.

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	Off-Campus Activities
	Such prohibited activity shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property if:
	1. There is a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.
Pol. 122, 123	2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.
Pol. 218	3. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, such as an agreement made on school property to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Code of Student Conduct.
4. Delegation of Responsibility	The Superintendent or designee shall annually notify students, parents/guardians and staff about the district's electronic device policy by publishing such policy in the student handbook, newsletters, posted notices, and other efficient methods.
5. Guidelines Pol. 218, 226, 233	Violations of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action and may result in confiscation of the electronic device.
	The confiscated item shall not be returned until a conference has been held with a parent/guardian.
	Telephone Pagers/Beepers
SC 1317.1	With prior administrative approval, the telephone paging device/beeper prohibition shall not apply in the following cases:
	A student who is a member of a volunteer fire company, ambulance or rescue squad.
	2. A student who has a need for such a device due to the medical condition of an immediate family member.
	3. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

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Personal Communication Devices

The use of cell phones in the school building between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. is strictly prohibited. If a student needs to use the phone during school hours, there is a phone available in the main office. Any student with a cellular phone visible, in use including texting, during the school day will be subject to disciplinary action including detention, in-school suspension and/or out-of-school suspension.

Cellular telephones that have the capability to take photographs or to record audio or video shall not be used for such purposes while on district property or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities unless expressly authorized in advance by the building principal or designee.

Laptop computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) brought to school shall be restricted to classroom or instructional-related activities. Students shall comply with guidelines set by the classroom teacher or school officials for the educational use of laptop computers and PDAs.

Exceptions

The building administrator may grant approval for possession and use of an electronic device by a student for the following reasons:

- 1. Health, safety or emergency reasons.
- 2. An individualized education program (IEP).
- 3. Classroom or instructional-related activities.
- 4. Other reasons determined appropriate by the building principal.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1317.1

Board Policy – 113, 122, 123, 218, 226, 233, 815

Pol. 113