

SCHOOL-BASED POLICY OF PS 55 The Henry M. Boehm School FOR USE OF CELL PHONES, COMPUTING DEVICES, AND PORTABLE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Students are permitted to bring the following electronic items to school: 1) cell phones; 2) laptops, tablets, iPads and other similar computing devices (“computing devices”); and 3) portable music and entertainment systems, such as iPods, MP3 players, PSP, and Nintendo DS.

A. The use of cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems at school is subject to the restrictions below.

1. Cell phones and portable music and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used during the administration of any school quiz, test or examination.
2. Computing devices may not be turned on or used during the administration of any school quiz, test or examination, except where such use has been explicitly authorized by the school or is contained in an Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Accommodation Plan.
3. Use of cell phones, computing devices, portable music and entertainment systems and other electronic devices during the administration of state standardized examinations is governed by State Education Department Rules.
4. Cell phones, computing devices and portable music and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used during school fire drills or other emergency preparedness exercises.
5. Cell phones, computing devices, and portable music and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used in locker rooms or bathrooms.

B. Cell phones may be used as set forth below:

During the school day:

- Cell phones may not be turned on or used while on school property.

During after-school, school-sponsored programs or activities:

- Cell phones may not be turned on or used.

C. Computing devices may be used as set forth below

During the school day:

- Computing systems may not be turned on or used during instructional time while on school property.

During after-school, school-sponsored programs or activities:

- Computing systems may not be turned on or used.

D. Portable music and entertainment systems may be used as set forth below

During the school day:

- Portable music devices and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used while on school property.

During after-school, school-sponsored activities:

- Portable music devices and entertainment systems may not be turned on or used.

E. Confiscation and return of electronic items

Below are the procedures for the confiscation, storage and return of electronic devices. In determining whether to confiscate an electronic device, schools should consider the nature of the violation. Where appropriate, measures should be instituted in a progressive fashion. Such measures may include, but are not limited to:

- warnings
- confiscation of item and return to parent at end of school day
- confiscation of item and return following parent conference
- confiscation of item and return following student entering into behavioral contract
- revocation of privilege to bring item to school.

F. Discipline

Students who use cell phones, computing devices, and/or portable music and entertainment system in violation of any provision of the DOE’s Discipline Code, the school’s policy, Chancellor Regulation A-413, and/or the DOE’s Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (“ISUSP”) will be subject to discipline in accordance with the guidance interventions and disciplinary responses set forth in the Discipline Code.

Model Student Contract for Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

I have read my school’s policy about use of cell phones and other electronic devices, the Discipline Code and the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

I know that I have a right to be:

- in a safe and supportive learning environment, free from discrimination, harassment, and bigotry;
- told by my school what is appropriate behavior and what actions may result in disciplinary actions;
- counseled by members of the professional staff when my behavior may have a negative effect on my education and/or welfare at school;
- provided with due process of law in instances of disciplinary action for alleged violation of school rules or the Discipline Code that may result in my suspension or removal from class.

I agree to:

- follow all rules in the Discipline Code;
- obey my school’s policy about cell phones and other electronic devices;
- behave respectfully, without arguing, and cooperate when a staff member gives me direction or makes a request, including to turn over my cell phone or electronic device;
- refrain from taking photos and videos of other students, staff, or school security agents without staff authorization;
- only use cell phones or other electronic devices in class if I have the teacher’s permission;
- never use my cell phone or other electronic device to “sext” or to intimidate, embarrass, threaten, or bully others;
- never use my cell phone or other electronic device to cheat or help others cheat;
- keep my parents informed about school-related matters and make sure I give them any information sent home.

I understand that:

- I should travel to and from school using safe, familiar routes with good lighting, refrain from using shortcuts through isolated areas, and not display my electronic devices or carry them in a manner that attracts attention while traveling;
- cell phones and electronic devices may not be used during school fire drills or other emergency preparedness exercises;
- if I violate my school’s policy or the Discipline Code, my cell phone or other electronic device may be confiscated;
- if I use my cell phone or other electronic device to take photos or videos of others without staff authorization, or to bully, threaten, or intimidate others, or to “sext” or cheat, I will be disciplined in accordance with the Discipline Code;
- I am not permitted to charge my cell phone or other electronic device at school;
- I assume all responsibility for my cell phone and other electronic devices if I bring them to school. My school is not responsible for stolen, damaged or lost devices.

By signing this document, I agree to follow all the rules contained in this document.

Student Full Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Model Parent Contract for Use of Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

I have read the policy of my child’s school on cell phones and other electronic devices, the Discipline Code, and the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities, and understand the behavior that is required of my child.

I agree to help my child follow these policies by:

- discussing with my child the contents of the school’s cell phone and electronics policy, the Discipline Code and the Bill of Student Rights and Responsibilities;
- encouraging my child to be a respectful and peaceful member of the school community, and to never use an electronic device to engage in harassment, bullying or intimidation, or to take photos or post pictures of others without staff authorization;
- reminding my child that cell phones and electronic devices may not be used during school fire drills or other emergency preparedness exercises;
- reminding my child about the importance of academic honesty and never using an electronic device to engage in cheating or to help others cheat;
- calling the school if I need to contact my child during the school day and not trying to reach my child on his/her electronic device during the school day;
- teaching my child to be responsible and safe about his/her electronic devices both in school and while traveling to and from school, to not display the devices or carry them in a manner that attracts attention, to always travel using safe, familiar streets with good lighting, and to refrain from using shortcuts through isolated areas;
- reminding my child that having a cell phone or electronic device in school is a privilege, and that the privilege may be revoked, or electronic devices may be confiscated by the school if they are used in violation of the school’s policy or the Discipline Code;
- reminding my child that the school is not responsible or liable if his/her device is lost, damaged or stolen, that it is my child’s responsibility to take proper care of his/her device, and that devices may not be charged at school.

Parent Name (please print): _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____