



Electronic Device Policy

Electronic devices have become a common means of communication and information access in today's society. However, these devices have the potential of disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Bridgewater Academy has therefore created this policy to govern the possession and use of electronic devices on school premises, during school hours.

Definition: For purposes of this policy "**Electronic Device**" means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic handheld equipment that include, but are not limited to, cell phones, walkie-talkies, handheld entertainment systems, CD players, compact DVD players, MP3 players, iPods ©, and any other communication technologies that do any number of the previously mentioned functions. Electronic Device also include any current or emerging wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing.

Possession and Use: Students at Bridgewater Academy may possess electronic devices at school subject to the following:

- Students may carry and possess electronic devices to and from school.
- Electronic devices must be turned off and kept in backpacks during school hours except under the supervision of the teacher in the classroom.
- At no time may electronic devices be used on the playground.

Prohibitions: Electronic devices may not be used in a way that threatens, humiliates, harasses, intimidates, or violates local, state or federal law of school-related individuals, including students, employees, and visitors. Electronic devices may not be used during South Carolina Performance Assessment System for Students assessments unless specifically allowed by law, student Individual Education Plan, or assessment directions.

Confiscations: If a student violates this policy, his/her electronic device may be confiscated. When an employee confiscates an electronic device under this policy, he/she shall take reasonable measures to label and secure the device and turn the device over to a school administrator as soon as the employee's duties permit. The electronic device will be released/returned to the student on the first confiscation. On subsequent confiscations, the electronic devices will be released/returned to the student's parent or guardian after the student has complied with any other disciplinary consequence that is imposed.



Security of Device: Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of electronic devices brought to school. The school shall not assume responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or unauthorized calls made with an electronic device. If devices are loaned to or borrowed and misused by non-owners, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).

Exceptions: With prior approval of the director, the above prohibitions may be relaxed under the following circumstances:

- the use is specifically required to implement a student's current and valid IEP;
- the use is at the direction of a teacher for educational purposes;
- the use is determined by the director to be necessary for other special circumstances, health-related reasons, or emergency.