



Approved 07/01/2009
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Electronic Devices

Policy No. 16

Students have no expectation of privacy with electronic devices used at school.

The use of electronics on Freedom Preparatory Academy (FPA) properties will adhere to the following guidelines:

FPA restricts the use of electronic devices at school. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, FPA hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices. **The Academy is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of these items and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices.**

DEFINITIONS

“**Electronic device(s)**” means a privately owned device that is used for audio, video, or text communication or any other type of computer or computer-like instrument which includes, but are not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, tablet computers, e-readers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, laptop computers, and other electronic or battery powered instruments which can record, store, or transmit voice, video, text, or data from one person to another, either personal or school property.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SCHOOL

1. No electronic devices shall be used at school during class time without teacher permission.
2. Students may have electronic devices in their possession but they must be turned off during class and during testing or assessment.
3. Electronic devices may be appropriately used during lunch time, at class breaks and before and after school. If, however, that device causes a disturbance on school grounds, it may be confiscated.
4. Students shall not use electronic devices at any time or place for:
 - a. Activities which disrupt the educational environment,
 - b. Illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations,
 - c. Unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests,
 - d. Immoral or pornographic activities,
 - e. Activities which violate State or Federal and/or Board policy and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment,
 - f. Activities which invade the privacy of others.
 - g. Other violation(s) of school policy.
5. Exceptions to this policy may be granted by the principal for the following reasons:
 - a. Medical reasons,

- b. Teacher permission (instructional use),
 - c. Emergency,
 - d. Other reasons approved by the principal.
6. Consequences for Violation of this policy
- a. Teachers (employees, counselors, technicians, secretaries, other staff, etc.) may confiscate electronic devices during class time if used in violation of the above guidelines.
 - b. Confiscated electronic devices must be claimed by a parent or legal guardian.
 - c. Refusal to surrender electronic devices upon request is considered insubordination and will result in school discipline.
 - d. Misuse of electronic devices may result in school discipline such as, but not limited, to losing student privileges or suspension.
 - e. Electronic equipment that has been seized may be subject to search.
7. Other provisions
- a. Picture taking or recording by students is strictly forbidden in school or school activity private areas such as locker rooms, counseling sessions, restrooms, etc.
 - b. Students are responsible for their own electronic devices. If devices are borrowed or loaned and misused by non-owner, device owners are jointly responsible for the misuse or policy violation(s).
 - c. Parents and students will be notified of this policy as early as possible in the school year. The policy will be covered in the FPA Student Handbook.

VIOLATIONS

Electronic devices will be confiscated by school personnel. When an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the Academy's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned when a parent or legal guardian appears in person requesting device.

Electronic devices confiscated may be subject to search by administration or faculty and may be turned over to law enforcement if illegal activity is found.

Continued violation of this policy may result in suspension from the Academy.

Parents or legal guardians are expected to claim a confiscated electronic device within ten (10) days of the date it was relinquished. The Academy shall not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for any unclaimed electronic device or monthly service charges while in the possession of the Academy.