

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No student, unless authorized by the school principal or his/her designee, shall use or operate any electronic telecommunication device, including any facsimile system, radio paging service, mobile telephone service, intercom, or electro-mechanical paging system in any elementary or secondary school building, or on the grounds thereof or in any school bus used to transport public school students. A violation of these provisions may be grounds for disciplinary action, including but not limited to, suspension from school. Nothing shall prohibit the use and operation by any person, including students, of any electronic telecommunication device in the event of an emergency. *Emergency* shall mean an actual or imminent threat to public health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.

Should cell phones be seen, used or heard for any purpose during the regular school day, except during an emergency situation as defined by state statutes, the student will receive consequences as listed below:

- **First Offense**

The phone shall be taken from the student then labeled with student's name and kept in a locked place at the school for two (2) days. After two days, a parent will be allowed to pick up the phone, but must sign a contract stating the student has violated this policy and will be subject to more severe consequences if there is a second offense. Student will be placed on Step II of the Assertive Discipline Ladder which requires that the student will receive a two (2) day stay in the Positive Action Class (PAC) or a one (1) day out of school suspension.

- **Second Offense**

The phone shall be taken from the student then labeled with the student's name and kept in a locked place at the school for five (5) days and parent called to come pick up the phone after the five (5) days. Parent and student will be informed that the child will be placed on Step III of the Assertive Discipline Ladder which requires three days of PAC or 1 day of OSS. Principal/designee may choose to use any combination of PAC and OSS. Parent must also pay a \$15.00 fine to the school before the phone is returned.

- **Third and Subsequent Offenses**

The phone will be taken from the student then labeled with the student's name and kept in a locked place at the school for ten (10) days and the parent called to come pick up the phone after the ten (10) days. Parent and student will be informed that the child will be placed on Step IV of the Assertive Discipline Ladder which requires five (5) days of PAC or four (4) days of OSS or in combination of the two based on the administrator's discretion. Additionally, parent must pay a \$25.00 dollar fine before the phone is returned. Any additional offenses will require the student move to the next level of the Assertive Discipline Ladder and pay an additional \$25.00 fine.

Student use of the Internet, cameras, cell phones, "IPODS" video or audio recorders, and/or any other electronic systems, on or off campus, that subsequently causes *substantial disruption* to the educational environment, interferes with the rights of others, or can be considered a threat, will result in the student receiving discipline in accordance with the parish assertive discipline plan.

Should students choose to use the phone to video fights, text message test items, text message for unauthorized persons to check them out, post incidents that happened on school campus on the internet or similar practices that create a "*substantial disruption*" to the learning environment on a campus, they shall be suspended out of school for a minimum of three (3) days and possibly recommended for expulsion depending on the circumstances. Law enforcement will be asked to assist with any investigation involving a cell phone that "substantially disrupts" the learning environment on a campus.

For purposes of this policy, the terms *use* and *operation* shall mean whenever the electronic device is turned on.

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Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:239, 17:416, 17:416.1
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