Renert School - Electronic Devices Policies

(excerpt from Renert School Parent Student Handbook, p. 34-35)

Electronic Devices

While technological devices can enhance students' educational experience, they can also be highly distracting, undermine healthy social interaction, and compromise academic integrity. Consequently, students at Renert School are required to adhere to the following expectations when using technology:

Cell Phones and Smartwatches (and all other portable devices capable of Internet connectivity)

In accordance with the Ministerial Order #014/2024, student cell phones may not be used on school property between 8:30 am and 3:35 pm, with limited use exceptions as noted in section 3 of the Order (for health or medical reasons or to support special learning needs). Students who need to make or receive an important phone call during the school day may ask permission to use the telephone in the office or in one of the classrooms. During field trips, cell phones may only be used at the discretion of the supervising teacher.

We strongly discourage students from bringing cellphones to school. If a student chooses to bring a cell phone to school, it is with the understanding that the cell phone must be kept in the student's locker or backpack and switched off from 8:30 to 3:35. If these guidelines are not followed, or inappropriate usage is observed, the cell phone or smartwatch will be confiscated by staff and held in the school office. The student may only retrieve the device following a conversation with the appropriate school lead (Carla Thio for grades K-6 or Stacie Goegan for grades 7-12). Repeated failure to respect the technology policy will result in parental contact and referral to the School Principal.

Smartwatches, including the Apple Watch, are wearable mobile devices in the form of watches. Since smartwatches have many of the same capabilities as cell phones, including sending and receiving calls and texts, as well as connecting to the Internet, they pose many of the same concerns as cell phones. Consequently, they are subject to the same restrictions outlined above.

Personal Electronic Devices

Kindergarten and Division 1 and 2 students are not permitted to use any personal electronic devices at school, including personal gaming devices, music players, portable video players, iPads, iPods, laptops, etc. They should be discouraged from bringing any personal electronic devices to school. If they are given a cell phone or smartwatch for safety reasons or for essential communication with parents after school, they must ensure that these devices are turned off and always kept in their backpacks or lockers during the school day.

Division 3 and 4 students must have their own personal laptops (not iPads or iPods) available in their lockers for school use. In Division 3, laptops should be brought to class only upon a teacher's request and shall be put back in the locker at the end of the class. Laptops should be used strictly for the purpose defined by the teacher in charge (the most frequent uses being in-class research or typing of essays). In Division 3, we are also encouraging a healthy approach to technology, recognizing that students in this age group are still maturing in terms of their ability to use personal technology responsibly. Division 3 students may not use their laptops for recreational purposes at recess and lunchtime. These times are meant to be social times, and accordingly we encourage students to utilize these times to interact with others and relax.

Any personal electronic device discovered to be in violation of these guidelines will be confiscated by staff and held in the school office. The student may only retrieve the device following a conversation with the appropriate school lead (Carla Thio for grades K-6 or Stacie Goegan for grades 7-12). Repeated failure to respect the technology policy will result in parental contact and referral to the School Principal.

Computer/Internet Use

At Renert School, students have access to electronic media. The School has wireless Internet capabilities over the school network. All students in Divisions 2-4 and their parents must sign the Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement, which describes the acceptable use of computers and other electronic devices. This agreement remains on file for as long as the student is enrolled at the School.