

Student Use of Electronic Communication Devices

The Board of Education recognizes that electronic communication devices can play a vital communication role during emergency situations. However, ordinary use of electronic communication devices in school situations disrupts and interferes with the educational process and is not acceptable. For purposes of this policy, “electronic communication devices” include cell phones, beepers, pagers, walkie-talkies, and any other telecommunications device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor (e.g., Blackberry, Palm Pilot, etc.)

Elementary and middle school students may carry electronic communication devices but these devices must be turned off inside school buildings, on school buses, at school-sponsored activities and on field trips. In these locations, electronic communication devices may be used only during emergencies. For purposes of this policy, “emergency” shall mean an actual or imminent threat to public health or safety, which may result in loss of life, injury or property damage.

For high school students, the Board recognizes that cell phones and pagers can often play a vital communications role during emergency situations. However, the ordinary use of camera phones, video phones, cell phones, pagers, and other personal electronic communication devices can be disruptive to the educational process and is not acceptable. High school students may possess and use cell phones during passing periods, breaks, and the lunch period. These devices must be turned off during class time and those times when organized activities are being held by a teacher/teachers (e.g. assemblies, field trips) without express teacher permission. If a student desires to exit the class during the class period, the student must surrender the electronic device to the teacher. Upon return to the classroom, the device will be returned. Violations of the above rule will result in confiscation of the electronic device and its subsequent transfer to the school office.

Electronic communication devices with cameras are prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, or other locations where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person.

It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times. Violation of this policy and/or use that violates any other district policy shall result in disciplinary measures and confiscation of the electronic communication device. Confiscated devices shall be returned to the student only after a conference with the parent/guardian, student and school personnel. The building principal or designee may also refer the matter to law enforcement, as appropriate.

The district shall not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school property.

Adopted: 11/16/04
Revised: 10/11/07, 09/11/08

CROSS REFS.: **JIC and subcodes, Student Conduct**
JIH, Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests
JK and subcodes, Student Discipline

Monte Vista School District No. C-8, Monte Vista, Colorado