



ASHERN CENTRAL SCHOOL

February 5, 2014

Use of Electronic Devices in Middle Years

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We have been noticing an increase in the use of electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, iPods etc.) by our middle years students. We know that these can be useful for educational purposes, but we are seeing instead that too many students are completely absorbed in games, texting, and other pursuits. As a result, they are missing out on opportunities to be physically active, to interact with others on a more “human” level, to be creative in filling their free time, and so on.

To address this, we are instituting a policy for electronic devices owned by students that we have determined is in the students’ best interests. This policy changes as the students get older, as we recognize the changes in the students themselves.

Grades 5 and 6: *Grades 5 and 6 students will not be allowed to use personal electronic devices at school.* This includes class time; or before school, during recesses or the noon hour. We would encourage you to have students leave these devices at home. If they are brought to school, they must be kept out of sight, locked in the student’s locker.

Devices that are seen or heard will be confiscated and kept by the teacher or at the office until the end of the day.

If this continues to be a problem for any student, we may ask you to come to the school to pick up the device.

Grades 7 and 8: Students will not be allowed to use personal electronic devices during class time, or during outdoor recesses, and will be expected to leave them locked in their lockers. If brought to class, they will be confiscated and kept until the end of the day.

Grades 7 and 8 students may use their devices during the noon hour, in the multi or the library. If grades 5 and 6 students are kept indoors at lunch, then grades 7 and 8 students may only use their devices in the library.

Grade 8: Students in senior years will sometimes use personal electronic devices for learning purposes in their classes. In order to prepare for that change, grade 8 students may be invited to bring their own devices into class to be used for a variety of learning tasks. This will be at the discretion of the grade 8 teacher. We will, of course, have devices here (MY laptops, and/or iPads etc.) for those students who do not have their own device.

Listening to music: Students will not be allowed to listen to music during class time. The research is clear that this does not support student learning (regardless of what students may insist!). That said, teachers may occasionally play music for the entire class as appropriate.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please contact your child’s middle years teacher if you have any questions.