

POLICY 530: STUDENT USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth expectations for the appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies that students may possess, including but not limited to cellular phones and other personal electronic devices capable of recording and/or transmitting data or images.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Stonebridge World School holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity, and responsible use of technology. Students who possess and/or use technology devices at school, on school buses, or at school-sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community. State laws provide employees and students with certain privacy rights. Students' actions during the school day, in class, and at school, are considered private under state and federal laws and shall not be recorded or shared without consent of the individual.

III. STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE USE AT SCHOOL, ON BUSES OR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A. Respect for the Educational Environment

1. Stonebridge World School provides appropriate technology devices for learning when specific devices are required, in support of learning, at the discretion of the teacher or other school staff.
2. Students may not use or possess cell phones at school. If a student brings a cell phone to school, it must be turned in to their classroom teacher at the beginning of the school day. It will be returned to the student at the end of the same school day.
3. Other electronic devices, including, but not limited to, music players, stereos, iPads, EarPods, Apple Watch, and video games should not be brought to school for any reason. Any electric device that is being used during school and is not authorized will be confiscated by Stonebridge staff and turned in to the School Director. Items will be returned to a parent or guardian by Stonebridge staff.
4. Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment or for inappropriate, unethical, or illegal purposes, including but not limited to, transmission or viewing of inappropriate or pornographic material, violations of others' privacy rights, cheating, harassing or bullying behavior. Accessing inappropriate material in school, on a school bus, or at a school activity will result in disciplinary action, even if such access is accidental. Parents are encouraged to monitor and/or restrict students' cellular internet access.

B. Respect for Privacy Rights

1. Students shall not record, photograph, or video other students or school employees on school property, on a school bus or at school-sponsored activities without their knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena (e.g., sporting events, public meetings, academic competitions, or public performances). School social events, activities sponsored by student clubs, team-building retreats, and activities during the school day are not considered in the public arena.
2. Students shall not email, text, post to the internet or social media, or otherwise electronically transmit images of other individuals taken at school without their expressed consent.
3. Recording, photographing, or making videos of others is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing rooms, health offices, and restrooms, where individuals have every expectation of privacy.

C. Assuring Academic Integrity

Students shall not use cellular phones, iPads, or other electronic devices in any way that may cause a teacher or staff member to question whether the student may be cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy.

Students are advised that the use of any audible transmission through any cellular or electronic device during testing events will result in the student being removed from the room and immediate cancellation of the exam. Disciplinary action may be taken.

D. Responsibility for Personal Property

1. Students who choose to bring a personal device to school assume all responsibility and risks relating to the possession and use of personal devices, including internet access and data transmission.
2. Parents are advised that cellular devices are not subject to the school's internet filters and responsibility for ensuring appropriate access to the internet rests with the individual student and family.
3. Stonebridge World School employees will not be responsible for safeguarding or troubleshooting any student's personal electronic devices.
4. Stonebridge World School nor its employees will be responsible or liable for the theft, loss, data loss, damage, destruction, misuse, or vandalism of any student's personal electronic device brought on school property or on school buses.

IV. VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions. Multiple violations and/or illegal or unethical use of a personal electronic device may result in a parent notification, a behavior contract, multi-day suspension, expulsion, and/or prosecution. A severe infraction, including but not limited to creating, transmitting, or viewing inappropriate or pornographic material, violating of others' privacy rights, cheating, or harassing or bullying behavior using a technology device on or off school grounds, may result in immediate suspension and/or expulsion from school and/or prosecution.

V. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy shall be included in the Student/Parent Handbook, posted to the Stonebridge World School website, and otherwise distributed upon request.

Adopted: 9.25.24

Revised: