



MOBILE ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE POLICY

SECTION 1. BEN FRANKLIN ACADEMY

MISSION

The mission of Ben Franklin Academy is to develop young adults with character like America's founding Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin: well-read, scientifically curious, and civically engaged.

VISION

Our students will excel academically through a challenging, sequenced curriculum that emphasizes math, science, the arts, and literacy. We will be a data-driven institution, focusing on individual students. Our students, teachers, parents, staff, and leaders will be held accountable for the success of our school. Finally, we recognize that an education is incomplete without fostering social emotional development, character, sports, and nature.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that technology is properly used for educational purposes and is not a distraction for students, teachers, staff, and the administration. While the learning environment can be significantly enhanced by the use of electronic devices in an educational context, certain electronic devices can be a negative distraction to the classroom. Ben Franklin Academy's (BFA) technology emphasis encourages student use of, and curiosity about, electronic devices in general. During school hours, electronic device use will be limited to educational purposes.

SECTION 2. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Electronic devices owned by BFA shall be managed according to BFA's Inventory Management Policy. BFA will maintain technology consistent with BFA's Technology Standards.

BFA students shall not take home a BFA laptop, tablet, or other electronic device as noted in the Inventory Management Policy except as provided by BFA's Middle School Chromebook Handbook and Section 2, A., below. Staff members have the right to request that use of any electronic device by a student be discontinued immediately.

A. BFA-Issued Chromebooks

Pursuant to and consistent with BFA's Middle School Chromebook Handbook, BFA Middle School students that have been issued a BFA-owned Chromebook and have participated in the required Chromebook training are permitted to take Chromebooks home for educational purposes. Students may be required to use their Chromebooks at home as well as at school for educational purposes. Students who leave their Chromebooks at home may be loaned an alternative BFA-owned electronic device for the day if an electronic device is available, and dependent on teacher discretion. If no electronic device is available, it shall be at the teacher's discretion as to the student consequences for each class period for which the Chromebook is needed.

B. Electronic Devices Permitted in Classrooms

The following electronic devices may be used for academic purposes, with teacher oversight:

1. BFA-owned Devices
2. Student-owned Electronic Devices. For this policy, “student-owned electronic device” means any electronic device not owned by BFA. **BFA is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged student-owned electronic devices.**

C. Student-owned Electronic Devices Permitted During Non-Instructional Time

1. Student-owned electronic devices, except for cell phones and electronic devices that connect to a cellular network, may be used during non-instructional time such as during morning carpool, middle school study hall, locker breaks, and afternoon carpool. These electronic devices may only be used during indoor recess with a teacher’s permission.
2. Student-owned cell phones and electronic devices that connect to a cellular network are restricted to usage after carpool. Usage of these devices for parent/guardian communication during carpool is permitted with teacher authorization.

D. Software

Students shall neither download nor install software on any BFA laptop, tablet, or other electronic device. Only BFA staff can download or install approved software. The principal, technology specialist, or either of their designees, shall make the determination regarding approved software based on appropriateness, as well as whether the software may harm the laptop, tablet, or other electronic device, or BFA’s technology infrastructure.

The principal, technology specialist, or either of their designees, may require software to be installed or uninstalled on any BFA electronic device.

SECTION 3. POLICY VIOLATION

If a student is using an electronic device inappropriately, the electronic device will be confiscated, and the student may be subject to consequences. Confiscated student-owned electronic devices may only be picked up and signed out by a parent/guardian.

BFA reserves the right to revoke electronic device privileges, whether student-owned or BFA property, from any student for inappropriate use.

Reviewed by the Board: 12/15/2020

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