

# Cellular Entertainment System (CES) Policy – TechnoArts Academy (Previous “Cell Phone”)

## Cellular Entertainment System (CES) Policy and Procedure

TechnoArts will be a Cellular Entertainment System-free school. Many schools across the State and Country are becoming device-free schools. Use of personal cellphones, cellular entertainment systems, smart watches, and any other electronic device will not be permitted during school hours, nor will they be permitted to be in students’ pockets, purses, bags, pencil pouches, etc. We do understand that there will be students who may need a device after school, so we have addressed that in our Procedures and Rules below.

Cellular Entertainment Systems (aka Cell Phone) use during school hours has increasingly become a source of distraction, antisocial behavior, and conflict at school. Electronic device usage happens when students are allowed to have devices in their pockets or on their person or within their possession during the school day. All TechnoArts students will receive a tablet or laptop for school use for any technology used during the school day.

TechnoArts Academy believes in maintaining a safe and effective educational environment for all its students. Research shows that the mere presence of Cellular Entertainment Systems (aka cellphones) in the classroom or school environment can be detrimental to student performance and behavior. According to a survey and report from Common Sense Media that involved 1,240 interviews with parents of students ages 12-18 years old, fifty-nine percent (59%) of these parents felt that their child has a problem putting their mobile devices down and fifty percent (50%) of students feel attached to their mobile devices (U.S. News & World Report).

Every year the age of students who have an electronic device keeps going down. As an elementary school our job is to educate our students and provide them a safe and secure environment. Part of our plan to keep our students safe is to not allow cellular devices of any kind to be on a student (meaning in pockets, purses, pencil pouches, backpacks, etc.) during the school day.

We believe this will allow our students to be:

- Engaged in educational activities and assignments
- Less dependent on electronic devices and focus on their schoolwork, collaborating with other students, socialization skills, etc.
- Less likely to engage in cyber and/or in-school bullying
- Less likely to be distracted and procrastinate on assignments in their classes

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What if I want to reach my student during the school day?**

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. Please refrain from contacting your student during the school day unless it is an emergency. Please contact the main office to reach your student or leave a message for them. All messages will be delivered to the student promptly.

**What if there is an emergency at the school?**

In case of an emergency, we direct students to safety first. School staff will be able to alert parents in a timely manner as to the details of the emergency and what the parents next steps are. When schools have emergencies, it can make a situation more dangerous for children and can complicate police emergency procedures if we have parents showing up at the school or if parents are receiving unreliable or incorrect information from their child.

**Will my student's device be safe?**

Yes, because the student's device will be in a locked box in the front office, no one will be able to retrieve it unless they are the student or parent.

**What if my child needs to reach me during the day?**

The child will be able to reach a parent during the school day by going to the office and calling from a school phone in the case of an emergency. We will discourage students from "needing" to call parents throughout the school day for reasons that are not emergencies.

**What if my child forgets to give their device to a staff member upon entering the building?**

If a student is caught in the "Device-free" Zone with an electronic device, they will be sent to the office to secure any electronic devices in a lock box. The parent will be notified to let them know that the student's device is in a lock box. The student will be given a warning the first time, and if it persists, there will be disciplinary measures including meeting with the parents to implement a plan.

**Does this policy include watches or other electronic devices?**

Yes. Any electronic device that the student has including watches, tablets, etc. will need to be in a lock box for the duration of the school day.

**Will my child be able to take their electronic device on field trips?**

No. Students need to be engaged in their learning and that includes on field trips. Field trips are an extension of the learning day and if students were given their devices while on field trips it would be a distraction from the purpose of the field trip. If parents would like to know

everything their child is doing on a field trip, we would encourage parents to be a volunteer chaperone.

**What if there is an emergency on a field trip? What if the bus breaks down or there is an injury or other emergency?**

The school will handle all emergency situations as required by law and that includes when students are on field trips. The school's number one concern will always be the safety and security of the students and parents will be made aware of how we will handle emergency situations on a field trip and will be contacted in a timely manner.

**What if my child has a medical condition where they need their electronic device for monitoring purposes?**

Students with medical conditions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and their medical needs will be put first.

**Procedures and Rules:**

**The word "cellular device" used in our Procedures and Rules below include any electronic device carried or worn (phones, watches, tablets, etc.).**

1. All parents will fill out a Cellular Entertainment System (CES) form to let us know which children will be bringing a cellular device to school. Parents whose child will be bringing a cellular device to school **daily** will need to register the device and will then get a number of a lock box that the student will use to store their device every morning when they come to school. All devices shall remain in the lock box for the duration of the day. Cellular devices **MUST** be turned off before being placed in the lock box.
2. Parents who need to send a cellular device with their child on an "as-needed" basis, will be required to register the device. When the student enters the school, they will hand their all cellular devices to a staff member who will then place them in a lock box with the child's name. They will remain in the lock box for the duration of the day.
3. At dismissal, the office will call the students' names to have them retrieve their cellular devices from the lock boxes. Devices will immediately be put into their backpack without turning the devices on. They will remain off and in their backpack until picked up by their parents or after they board the bus.
4. Should a student be dismissed early; the cellular device will be given to the parent or guardian when they sign their child out.