

KRIEGER SCHECHTER DAY SCHOOL

Cell phones, Electronic Games/Devices

Technology and electronic devices serve many important functions in our society and in our educational program. However, non-schoolwork-related use of personal technology while at school can pull students away from social interactions and can distract them from hearing and following directions. We see how technology use is taking over students' lives, and not always in productive ways. We see the need as a community to foster our students' independence from technology, to increase their "presence" in their minute-to-minute experiences, and to nurture their trust in the school and in themselves for problem-solving.

KSDS has always banned student phone use K-8 throughout the school day. Please see below for additional policies (some new for 2024-2025):

Electronics Policy (Before and After School)

Before School:

- Students are not permitted to use any electronic device (including electronic games and cell phones) before school, including during early drop-off. Once a student has entered the building for a school day, all electronic devices should be put away. Our goal during arrival time is for students to interact socially with each other, and not through electronics.
- Middle school students are not allowed to use their laptops before school unless they receive specific permission from a teacher to use the laptop for something school-related at that specific time.

After School:

- **CHANGE for 2024-2025:**
 - **LS and MS students are not permitted to use any electronic device during dismissal.** Our goal during dismissal is to have students be attentive to listening for their names to be called or for any other safety directions, and to proceed out to the carpool line only when a teacher has called their name. If you and your child need to communicate related to pick-up procedures, please contact the school office to arrange that communication. Parents who are running late should call the school office with that information; school will call parents of students who have not been picked up by the end of dismissal to determine next steps.
- **CHANGE for 2024-2025:**
 - **Students at Extended Day or at MS After-School Athletics are not permitted to use their phones or other personal electronics, other than if needed for homework.**
 - **Exception - students can ask for permission to use their devices to contact parents with updates about pick-up times or pick-up arrangements.**
 - **If students need to communicate with parents after school, they should come to the office to use the phone there. If students need to communicate**

with parents while traveling to an away sports game, students should ask the coach for temporary permission.

Electronics Policy (During School Hours)

Lower School Students

- LS students are not allowed to carry and not allowed to bring to school any kind of electronic communication device (phones, laptops, smartwatches of any kind (even if not connected to the internet). The standing exception to this rule is the school-issued JotBook for 4th graders.
 - E-readers that have no access to internet browsing are allowed, at parents' discretion. KSDS cannot be responsible for any damage or loss to personal property brought to school.

Middle School Students

- **CHANGE FOR 2024-2025: MS students are not allowed to wear/use/bring to school any kind of smartwatch, whether connected to an internet data plan or not.**
- While MS students are allowed to bring personal electronic devices, any cell phone or any other electronic device brought to school must remain TURNED OFF and kept in the student's locker or backpack.
 - The standing exception to this rule is the laptop that each middle school student is required to bring from home for personal use throughout the school day, which is permitted to be used ONLY during class times, according to a teacher's instructions.
 - Exceptions may be made at administrators' or teachers' discretion giving students permission to use personal electronic devices on specific occasions related to schoolwork assignments.
 - There is a telephone in the office to be used for emergency calls to parents. Students should NOT be communicating with parents via computer or electronic device during the school day (emails, messages or other platforms), unless given explicit permission to do so by a teacher. Students are always welcome to come to the office to ask to use the phone or for permission to message home. Parents are encouraged to email school/office administrators if parents have messages they need delivered to their student during the school day.
 - We ask parents to support the school consistently in this policy. If your children are messaging you from a personal device during the school day, please remind them to go to the office if they need to communicate with you.
- Middle school students are NOT allowed to use their laptops before school, during break or between classes unless they receive specific permission from a teacher to use the laptop for something school-related at that specific time.

In all cases (before, during or after school), violation of the policy regarding electronic devices will result in the device being taken away from the student. A parent must come to the school office in order to retrieve the confiscated device. Repeated violations will result in extended consequences.

In all situations - KSDS students are not allowed to capture (or post/distribute/send) photo or video images or audio of KSDS, its faculty, students, or environment, in any form, without approval by an administrator or teacher. Please see the Acceptable Use Policy below for more details.