

Device and Cell Phone Policy

(approved 1/14/19, revised 2/27/24; revised 8/19/24)

Pioneer Springs acknowledges technology is an integral tool in modern society. As such, PSCS seeks to balance this growing daily dependency on technology with the purpose of the school to educate students in a distraction-free environment. This policy provides guidelines for student use of devices, both personal and school-owned, during the instructional day. The policy is intended to support the safe and intentional use of devices to engage in learning while ensuring no disruption to the learning environment and addresses the use of computers/ Chromebooks and tablets separately from the use of cell phones and other accessories.

For the purposes of this policy, “devices” refers to any device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays any message or video image, or is otherwise capable of sending, receiving, emitting, photographing, recording, storing or displaying any type of audio or visual communication, files, or data. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular and smart phones, ear and headphones, camera and digital recording devices, scanning devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), MP3 players, iPods, iPads, tablets, smart watches, computers, radios, pagers, or any device or accessory that allows the possessor to access the internet or Bluetooth. For the purposes of this policy “cell phone” refers to any electronic communication device.

Of note, Pioneer Springs assumes no liability for the damage or theft of any personal devices or information stored on said devices; students are *not* required to have any personal devices on campus to engage in learning and, as such, they are responsible for securing their personal property should they choose to bring it to campus. Similarly, Pioneer Springs is neither responsible for any possible device charges to an account that might be incurred during school hours, nor is the school liable for any activities, including criminal acts, that a student may undertake with his personal property while on campus or at a school event.

Exceptions to this policy must be medically justified (i.e., diabetes monitor; justified through a formal 504 or IEP as relevant to student instruction only).

Computers, Chromebooks, or Tablets

1. Computers, Chromebooks, or tablets may only be used during the instructional day between 8:30am and 3:00pm and at the explicit direction of the teacher. Students may not use computers, Chromebooks, or tablets during lunch or before or after school.
2. Students who bring personal computers or tablets to school must adhere to the Behavior and Discipline Policy, the Pioneer Springs Family Handbook, the Internet Safety Policy, and all Board Policies.

3. Computers or tablets, both personal and school-owned, may only be used to access computer files on internet sites relevant to the classroom curriculum and at the direction of the teacher. Further, and in accordance with the Behavior and Discipline Policy, devices may not be used to cheat on assignments, quizzes, or tests, or for non-instructional purposes.
4. Students may not use computers or tablets to record, transmit, or post photographic images or videos of a person or persons on campus during school hours or school activities unless otherwise directed by a teacher in the service of learning engagement (i.e., taking pictures for yearbook, participating in digital photography class).
5. Access to the internet while at school must be through the PSCS student network—no cellular access. The school's network filters will be applied to a device's connection. Any attempt to bypass the network filters is prohibited and will result in loss of the privilege to bring a personal computer, chromebook, or tablet.
6. Pioneer Springs personnel will collect any device that is being used outside of the articulated guidelines or that is causing an interruption to instruction. Collected devices will be held until the end of the school day and may be collected at the Main Office after school.
7. Printing from personal computers, Chromebooks, or tablets is prohibited at school.
8. Personal computers, Chromebooks, or tablets devices should be charged before school and run on battery power while at school. Charging of devices cannot be guaranteed during the instructional day.

Cell Phones

Student safety is always a priority and, with the compliance of both parents and students to this policy and with appropriate planning, there is no reason a student should need to use a cell phone or electronic communication device during the regular school day. In any instance requiring emergency communication, school staff will immediately assist the student or family member with that situation by using a school telephone (704-494-0777). **That being said, cell phones are not to be used by students in any capacity during school hours.** Pioneer Springs allows students to possess cell phones during the school day provided the following rules are strictly followed:

1. All cell phones must be turned off and placed out of sight throughout the instructional day. Students may keep their cell phone inside a backpack or bag, or their locker. There is no justification for powering on a cell phone as a clock, calculator, or dictionary, or failing to turn off sounds or vibrations.

2. Students may use their cell phones after the school day has ended as signaled by the dismissal bell.

If a student is using a cell phone or electronic communication device or any of its functions for any reason during PSCS school hours, the following consequences will be imposed:

1st Offense: Device will be confiscated by the teacher until the end of day when it will be returned to the student. Teachers must contact the parent/guardian to notify them of the incident and steps for subsequent violations. Teacher will submit the violation to Administration for reporting purposes.

2nd Offense: Device will be confiscated and given to Administration who will contact the family. Parent/guardian must pick up the cell phone/electronic device during school hours at the office.

Subsequent Offenses: Consequences may include the loss of the privilege of having the device on campus, suspension, or other actions appropriate to the intended purpose of this policy.

Refusing to Comply: If a student refuses to turn over his/her electronic device upon violation of this policy, further disciplinary action will follow, including possible suspension and loss of privilege for the remainder of the semester or year.