

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA
CHESTER A. ARTHUR SCHOOL
2000 CATHARINE STREET
Philadelphia, PA 19146

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to school! I hope you had a restful and relaxing summer. As with every new school year, school wide rules and procedures are revisited and changes are often times necessary. This letter is to inform you of a change to Chester A. Arthur's technology policy, specifically concerning personal electronic devices. This new policy allows the possession of electronic devices by students on school grounds during the regular school day but that all devices may not be kept on the student's person. This means that the device must be kept in a purse, book bag, etc. The device cannot be kept in the pocket of pants, coats, etc. During the school day, these devices must also be turned off and may not be used by students. They must not be seen or heard in any way whatsoever. These devices cause distractions to the classroom learning environment and can be disruptive to the climate and safety of our school. This new policy includes cell phones, tablets, personal laptop computers, etc.

Here at Arthur our students are privileged to have an abundance of technology at their daily disposal making it unnecessary for them to bring their own devices. In any instance requiring emergency communication our school will immediately assist the student, parent, or other adult with that situation by using a school telephone.

Upon entering the school building all devices must be turned off. If a student is found to be in violation of this technology policy, the following actions will be taken:

1st Offense: The device will be confiscated, placed in a secure location and returned at the end of the school day. The device will be signed in by a staff member and signed out to the student in the main office after school. The student will also receive a copy of this letter as a reminder of the policy. A parent will be notified of the incident.

2nd Offense: The device will be confiscated, placed in a secure location, and a parent will receive a phone call requesting they come to school to retrieve the device by signing it out in the main office. The device will not be returned to the student.

3rd Offense: The device will be confiscated, placed in a secure location, and a parent will receive a phone call requesting they come to school to retrieve the device by signing it out in the school office. The device will not be returned to the student and the incident will be documented with a written disciplinary referral.

The only reasons for school personnel to ask a student to surrender a device would be:

1. If the device rings or vibrates (which would mean that it was turned on, and in violation of the policy).

2. If school personnel sees the device (which would mean that the device was visible or on the student's person, and in violation of the policy).

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter. By eliminating these distractions we are creating a safer and more productive learning environment.

Thank you,

Kimberly Newman
Principal