

Adopted: 04/24/2023 – Effective 05/01/2023

Revised:

AGAMIM CLASSICAL ACADEMY POLICY

Students, No. 512

STUDENT USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

I. PURPOSE

Agamim Classical Academy is committed to protecting the learning environment from disruption and protecting students from harmful exposure or unvirtuous conduct. This policy is to set forth expectations for appropriate use of existing and emerging technologies which students may possess, including but not limited to cellular phones and other personal electronic devices capable of recording, transmitting data or images, or providing or allowing personal entertainment.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Agamim Classical Academy holds high expectations for student behavior, academic integrity, and responsible use of technology. Students who possess and/or use cellular phones and other personal electronic devices at school, on school buses, or school sponsored events shall demonstrate the greatest respect for the educational environment, the virtuous culture of the school as a place of care and wholesomeness, and the rights and privacy of all individuals within the school community. State laws provide employees and students with certain privacy rights. Students' actions during the school day, in class and at school, are considered private under state and federal laws and shall not be recorded or shared by students without consent of the individual who was recorded or whose information/data was shared.

III. STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE USE AT SCHOOL, ON BUSES, OR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A. Respect for the Educational Environment:

1. Agamim provides appropriate electronic devices for learning when specific devices are required. Teachers may also permit, but not require, students to use personal electronic devices in support of learning, at the discretion of the teacher or other school staff.
2. Cellular phones and other personal electronic devices shall remain silent and be kept out of sight for the entirety of the school day, unless specifically allowed and justified by the teacher or other school staff for academic or emergency purposes.

B. Respect for Virtuous Culture:

1. Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment or for inappropriate, unethical, or illegal purposes, including but not limited to, transmission or viewing of inappropriate or pornographic material, violations of others' privacy rights, cheating, harassing, or bullying behavior. Accessing inappropriate material in school, on a school bus, or at a school activity will result in disciplinary action, even if such access is accidental. Parents are encouraged to monitor and/or restrict cellular internet access for students.

C. Respect for Privacy Rights:

1. Students shall not record, photograph, or capture video of other students or school employees on school property, on a school bus, or at school-sponsored activities without the other individual's knowledge and consent, except for activities considered to be in the public arena where recordings, photographs, or videos are allowed (*e.g.*, sporting events, public meetings, academic competitions, or public performances). School social events, activities sponsored by student clubs, teambuilding retreats, and activities that take place during the school day are not considered to be in the public arena.
2. Students shall not e-mail, text, post to the internet or via social media and device applications, or otherwise electronically transmit recordings, images, or videos of other individuals (*e.g.*, staff, students) taken at school without their expressed consent.
3. Recording, photographing, or capturing video of others is strictly prohibited in locker rooms, dressing rooms, health offices, and restrooms, or where individuals have every expectation of privacy.

- D. Assuring Academic Integrity:** Students shall not use cellular phones, laptops, tablets, or other electronic devices without staff consent. This requirement helps to prevent any suspicion of or temptation towards academic dishonesty (*e.g.*, cheating on tests or academic work or violating copyright policy).

Students shall follow all testing requirements and policies applicable to personal electronic devices set forth by the school, state, and/or test manufacturer. Students who violate or who are suspected of violating these requirements and policies will be subject to the school's discipline policies and/or academic consequences outlined by the testing body (*e.g.*, MDE's rules for MCA tests).

- E. Compliance with Other Agamim Classical Academy Policies:** Use of cellular phones or other personal electronic devices must not violate any other Agamim policies, including those regarding student privacy, copyright, cheating, plagiarism, civility, student code of conduct, electronic technologies acceptable use, or harassment. If a violation occurs involving more than one Agamim policy, consequences for each policy may apply.

F. Responsibility for Personal Property:

1. Students who choose to bring a personal device to school assume all responsibility and risks relating to the possession and use of personal devices, including internet access and data transmission.
2. Parents are advised that cellular and other personal electronic devices are not

subject to Agamim's internet filters and responsibility for ensuring appropriate access to the internet rests with the individual student and family.

3. Agamim and its employees do not assume liability for storing, safeguarding, or troubleshooting any student's personal electronic devices.
4. Neither Agamim nor its employees will be responsible or liable for the theft, loss, data loss, damage, destruction, misuse, or vandalism of any student personal electronic device brought onto school property, offsite during Agamim trips or events, or on school buses.

G. Expectations for Device Use

1. To minimize disruption during the school day, students who bring electronic devices to school will do the following:
 - **Keep it off, out of sight, and in their possession at all times.**

OR

 - **May, at their own discretion and risk, keep it in their locker or backpack or drop off the device in the main office and retrieve it at the end of the day.**
2. In order to help students abide by these rules, families who wish to contact their children during the school day must call or email the office and not communicate with the student directly through their personal electronic device. For safety reasons, families must notify the office directly of any changes in a student's pickup plans.

H. Special Use of Devices at School

1. For students with medical conditions or other needs requiring use of an electronic device during the school day, their usage will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and addressed with school administration, the school's health or mental health staff, and/or a student's special services (IEP/504/ML) team. Staff must be notified if students have a special use allowance.
2. Students may request staff permission to use their personal electronic device in the office or other approved space under the supervision of staff.

IV. VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions as defined by the school's discipline policies. Multiple violations and/or illegal or unethical use of a personal electronic device may result in a parent notification and/or device retrieval, a behavior contract, multi-day suspension, expulsion, and/or prosecution. A severe infraction, including but not limited to creating, transmitting, or viewing inappropriate or pornographic material, violating of others' privacy rights, cheating, or harassing or bullying behavior using an electronic device, may result in immediate suspension and/or expulsion from school and/or prosecution.

V. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy shall be included in a Student/Parent Handbook, posted to the Agamim website, and be otherwise distributed upon request.

Cross References:

Policy #402: Harassment and Violence

Policy #517: Student Discipline

Policy #518: Protection and Privacy of Student Records

Policy #522: Internet Acceptable Use

Agamim Student/Parent Handbook Code of Conduct

****Statutory references*