

505 Student Cell Phone and Technology Use

Adopted: February 2025

1 I. PURPOSE

2 The purpose of this policy is to establish standards for students in the appropriate use of personal
3 electronic devices while completing schoolwork and during school related activities. We
4 acknowledge that MN Online High School is a virtual school and use of cell phones by students
5 cannot always be directly supervised, it is still the responsibility of school officials to provide a
6 policy, oversight, guidance, and instructions on appropriate use of cell phones when engaging in
7 schoolwork at MNOHS.

8 II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

9 A. Students are encouraged to understand that the virtual classroom at MNOHS is also a
10 classroom setting and the use of cell phones can be a distraction. Cell phones can and should be
11 used as educational tools when appropriately utilized.

12 B. Use of a personal electronic device (including cell phones, smart watches, computers,
13 cameras, recording devices, listening devices, earbuds/air pods and any other device that can be
14 used to transmit or capture images, sound or data) in a manner that interferes with a positive,
15 orderly, educational environment or does not respect the rights of others is prohibited. This
16 includes use during a “live” course session at MNOHS or during a school activity.

17 C. This policy applies to student conduct occurring on school property, during virtual
18 synchronous and asynchronous sessions, during school related activities, or for student conduct
19 which creates a substantial disruption to the educational environment.

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21 III. RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS IN USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY

22 A. Students are prohibited from using personal technology under the following
23 circumstances:

24 1. Using a personal electronic device to photograph, video record/capture images,
25 audio record/capture, listen-in on, track, or engage in surveillance of any student or

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- 26 staff person: (a) without their knowledge or consent; and (b) in a manner that is harmful
27 to another or an invasion of privacy. This provision would not apply to pictures, video or
28 audio recording of people present at school sponsored events open to the public when
29 the student is otherwise complying with school board policy.
- 30 2. Using a personal electronic device to engage in academic dishonesty, including
31 cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an
32 academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
- 33 3. Using a personal electronic device on school property or at a school sponsored
34 activity, including coursework to create, send, share, view, receive, or possess an
35 indecent or obscene visual depiction of oneself or another person.
- 36 4. Possessing a surreptitious surveillance device on school property or during a
37 school sponsored activity without the expressed permission of building administration.
- 38 5. Using a personal electronic device while operating a motor vehicle on school
39 property.
- 40 B. Notwithstanding the prohibitions/limitations set forth in this policy, use of a
41 personal electronic device may be permitted to the extent allowed or required by a
42 student's individualized education program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, Health Plan or if it
43 is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other
44 individuals.
- 45 C. Students permissibly using a personal electronic device while on school property or in a
46 school virtual setting must exhibit respect for the educational environment by:
- 47 1. Following the classroom teacher or a building administrators' instructions for use;
- 48 2. Using the device in a manner that does not distract from the educational process
49 or disturb other students;

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50 3. Using the device in a manner that respects the property and copyright rights of
51 others;

52 4. Using the device in a manner that does not interfere with the safety of others.

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54 IV. CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS

55 Use of a personal electronic device in violation of this policy may result in temporary confiscation
56 of the device; revocation of the privilege to possess the device on school property or at school
57 sponsored activities; and/or disciplinary action, up to and including suspension; expulsion; and/or
58 referral to law enforcement.

59 V. The school board directs the superintendent and school district administration to establish
60 rules and procedures regarding student possession and use of cell phones in schools consistent
61 with this policy. These rules and procedures should seek to minimize the impact of cell phones on
62 student behavior, mental health, and academic attainment.

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64 ***Legal References***

65 Minnesota Statutes 121A.73

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67 ***Cross References***

68 Policy 406 – Public and Private Personnel Data

69 Policy 441- Digital Technologies and Digital Systems Acceptable Use

70 Policy 506 – Student Discipline

71 Policy 515 – Protection and Privacy of Education Records and Data

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