

Acceptable Use of Communication Devices and Social Media Applications

While individual school policies may vary regarding the privileges students may have as they pertain to cell phones and communication devices, certain restrictions and expectations apply to all USD 362 students. These restrictions and expectations apply to use or communication that is deemed to disrupt the learning environment or create a hostile environment at school, on or while utilizing school property, at school sponsored activities or events, or while using school transportation.

Student cell phones and electronic devices may be searched by administration if there is reason to believe a student has used the phone or device to engage in behavior that violates any school policy, guideline, or rule or that may violate federal or state law.

USD 362 students **may not:**

- Use electronic communication devices or social media (including, but not limited to, *Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter*) in a manner that poses a threat to academic integrity at school (such as for plagiarism, cheating, modifying district-held electronic records of grades, and similar acts of dishonesty); creates a substantial or material disruption or is reasonably forecast to create such a disruption at school, on or while utilizing school property, in school vehicles, or at a school sponsored activities or events; endangers the safety of others or substantially impinges upon or invades the rights of others at school, on school property, or at school sponsored activities or events.
- Possess, solicit, view, send or share pictures or text having sexual content using the phone or device or otherwise engage in sexting while at school, on or while utilizing school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school sponsored activity or event. *“Sexting” is defined as sending sexually explicit messages or sexually explicit photos of themselves or others.*
- Use electronic devices in a manner that is in conflict with USD 362 Anti-Bullying Policies (JDDC and corresponding handbook language) while at school, on or while utilizing school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school sponsored activity or event.

The electronic devices include, but are not limited to, any electronic communication device, computer or applications. Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary actions, up to and including, suspension and/or expulsion from school, suspension from participation in school activities; and/or losing the privileges of bringing the device on to school property and/or utilizing district issued electronic devices. Law enforcement will be contacted regarding any conduct that appears to violate state or federal laws.