

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT
BLOCK ISLAND SCHOOL

As new technologies continue to change the world in which we live, they also provide many new and positive educational benefits for classroom instruction. To encourage this growth, students at Block Island School may bring their own personal electronic devices to school. Students are encouraged to use their technology responsibly and in a manner that enhances learning. Privileges may be taken away if necessary. However, when used responsibly, the use of technology benefits the learning environment as a whole.

A personal technology device (PTD) is any electronic device used for communication or connection to the Internet. This includes, but are not limited to, smart phones, cell phones, tablets, laptops, or other devices with similar capability.

In order to bring their technology devices to school, students must agree that they have read and understand the following requirements. Technology devices:

- Must be in silent mode while in school and while riding the school bus. (Exception: when a teacher asks students to use a PTD for instructional purposes.)
- May not be used to cheat on assignments or tests.
- Are not to be used for non-instructional purposes (such as making personal phone calls and text/instant messaging, photography, recording audio or video).without explicit permission from the classroom teacher or other staff member.
- May be used instructionally with permission of the classroom teacher.
- May only be used to access files on computer or Internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum. Only approved educational games are allowed.

Rules Regarding PTD Usage

1. Students may not disseminate any data, documents, photos, images, videos, or other information using any technology medium, including social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Flickr, Form Spring) which may disrupt classroom activity or the educational process.
2. Students are prohibited from engaging in stalking, sexual harassment, cyber-bullying, and other objectively inappropriate behavior among and/or between fellow students or any member of the school community via the Internet, instant messaging, text messaging, or other similar form of communication (whether by mobile telephone, computer, or other communication medium).
3. Students may not use a PTD on school property or at a school sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet web sites that are otherwise blocked to students at Block Island School or take part in any prohibited activity.
4. Any student who possesses a PTD is responsible for its care. The Block Island School is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to personal devices.
5. Students are not to travel through the halls with headphones on and PTD use during hallway time should be such that it does not interfere with promptness in getting to class.
6. Parents/guardians are to contact the school office to communicate with their child during the school day. Students will use designated school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

7. Students may use PTDs in class at the discretion of their teachers. **At the discretion of the teacher, students will leave their PTDs at the beginning of each class period in a box on the teacher's desk. Students may pick up their devices at the end of the class period.** Generally, use during lunch is acceptable. However, if students are behind in their work or failing classes, the principal has the discretion to revoke this privilege.

Procedure for Confiscating PTDs

1. If a student is discovered to be using a PTD in violation of school procedure the student will be asked to turn it off and hand it to the staff member. If the student does not comply, s/he will be immediately sent to the office for disciplinary action.
2. The staff member will not turn on or view the contents of the phone or PTD. The student will be sent to the principal (or his/her designee) who will notify the student of the discipline for violation of school policy concerning PTDs. The principal or his/her designee will determine if there is any suspicion that the PTD has been used in a way that possibly violates state or federal laws and may at his/her discretion turn the device over to local or state authorities or ask a parent to come to school for further discussion and investigation.
3. The student's parent will be contacted about the PTD confiscation and the phone will be returned to the student at the end of the day. The student will lose the ability to use his/her PTD in school for a time determined by the principal. Students may also receive detention if they repeatedly disregard the procedure or, as in any interaction, show disrespect towards other students or staff members.

Acceptance

I understand and will abide by the above policy and guidelines. I further understand that any violation deemed unethical may result in the loss of my network and/or PTD privileges as well as other disciplinary action.

As a parent/guardian, I understand that I am to contact the school office to communicate with my child during the school day.

Student Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____