



Dr. George Hall Public School

Home of the Huskies

Cell Phone and Technology Use at DGH

September 6th, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a brief reminder regarding the use of cell phones and other electronics. For the purposes of this letter, I will refer all items like cell phones, iPods and iPads as being “technology.” The staff of Dr. George Hall recognize the value of students using technology. Many parents also consider technology an invaluable tool for safety, and technology is used extensively in the school to support and benefit student learning.

That being said, I would like to remind the school community about the proper and safe use of technology at school

- all technology use should only be in the classroom. Technology should not be used in hallways, washrooms or on the yard unless a staff member has given explicit permission. Should there be an issue, permission for the technology use will be taken away.
- technology needs to be used appropriately in the classroom. Should a staff member feel that the technology is being used inappropriately (even in class time) they will be asked to put it away.
- a homeroom teacher may give permission for students to use technology during Nutritional Breaks. Should the technology be used inappropriately the staff member on duty will ask the student to put it away. This would include being on websites which are not school appropriate.
- students should not be taking photos of other students at school (which includes on busses). Aside from some families not wanting electronic photos of their child to be taken, there can be issues of safety involved, as well.
- students **ABSOLUTELY SHOULD NOT** be posting pictures of other students on social media (e.g., Snapchat, Twitter or Facebook). This has increasingly become a problem in recent years. This would include the making of “memes” (taking a picture, adding a comment (often negative) and spreading it through social media).

Principal

Darin Parish

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• **students should not be calling or texting parents or guardians during the school day without the specific permission of a staff member.** The reason for this is that school staff (including the office) need to be aware of plans being made or health concerns. For example, a student who is sick or injured should speak with a staff member. Normally the staff member will send the student to the office and a phone call, by an office staff member, will be made home. Otherwise, staff members would be completely unaware of a student being ill. As well, there have been issues where a student has called/texted their parents and changed plans at the day's end (e.g., getting picked up at the school rather than going home on the bus) and the office has no record of the change. Our protocol is for students to follow their regular transportation arrangements unless we have a written note or a phone call from a parent or guardian.

The normal procedure for students not initially following the above rules will be for the technology to be put away. Should issues continue, possible consequences include the technology no longer being allowed in the classroom (a student would need to keep the technology in his/her locker) or potentially not bringing the technology to school at all. However, the consequences can be more serious for a serious violation of appropriate technology.

I would appreciate parents and guardians speaking with their children regarding the above information. Technology has tremendous benefits for students and staff alike; however, it is important that students show respect for other students and the school. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school at the number on the right side of the front page.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darin Parish". The signature is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Darin Parish
Principal

