

Grace Christian School

Electronic Communication Device Policy & Contract

for Middle and High School Students

All middle and high school students and their parents are required to read and sign the Electronic Communication Device Policy and Contract prior to the beginning of each school year, both of which are included below.

In order to enhance learning, cultivate interpersonal skills, minimize distractions, and encourage students to be more fully present where they are, GCS students are not permitted to use an electronic communication device (ECD) at school.

Designated ECD Storage

Both campuses (middle and high school) are equipped with designated storage holders for student ECD. These holders are under video surveillance for safe keeping, and they are the only places that students are permitted to store and keep their ECDs during the school day.

At the beginning of the year, students will be assigned a specific pocket in the ECD holder. Upon arrival in the building, a student should turn their ECD off and put it in their assigned holder pocket. Students should not use their ECDs at any time during the day. Students are responsible for picking up their ECDs before they leave the building at the end of the day.

GCS buses and vans are equipped with lockboxes for student ECD storage. These boxes are secured in the bus or van, and buses and vans are to be locked whenever they are unoccupied. On field trips and sports travel, student ECDs should remain in the locked storage box until their return back to the pick-up site. Teachers and coaches may use their discretion about allowing students to communicate with parents in a timely way to inform them of the estimated time of arrival.

Discipline (HS)

Students who violate this policy by having or using their ECDs during the school day will be given a work detention as a warning for a first offense. A second offense will result in a one-day suspension from school. A third offense will result in a three-day suspension. The result of any further offenses will be determined by the principal and head of school.

Discipline (ES/MS)

Students who violate this policy by having or using their ECDs during the school day will have their ECD taken to the office to be retrieved by the parents. A second offense will result in a one-day suspension from school. The result of any further offenses will be determined by the principal and head of school.

Field Trips

No ECDs will be used on a field trip. Principals, in consultation with teachers, can determine exceptions to this policy for each field trip. Otherwise, student ECDs are to remain locked and secure on the bus or van at the site and during travel time. Violation of this policy will be in accordance with the ECD disciplinary policies above.

Athletics

Student ECDs are to remain in the designated lockbox secured in the bus or van during away trips and games. The bus or van will remain locked while unoccupied on the site. Student-athlete ECDs will remain in the lockbox in the locked vehicle during away games.

Student-athletes who violate this policy will miss the first game after the offense. Student-athletes violating the policy during a trip to a game will miss that game. Student-athletes violating the policy during a trip home from a game will miss

the next game. If the next game is an away game, it is up to the discretion of the Athletic Director and Principal as to whether or not the student-athlete will travel with the team to the event.

Consequences for multiple offenses will be determined by school administration.

After School Care

Designated storage holders will be provided for students who bring their ECDs to after school care. Students will be asked to place their ECDs in the designated holder during their time at after school care. It will be the student's responsibility to pick up their ECD before leaving for the day. If a student violates this policy by having their ECD the result will be that the ECD will be confiscated and returned to the parent. Consequences for multiple offenses will be determined by school administration.

Student Contract

I, _____ (student's name), understand that possession of an ECD on school campus is a privilege and that it may be revoked at any time by the administration for violating this school policy. I understand that the school and its employees are in no way responsible for any theft or damage of my ECD while on school grounds or participating in school sponsored events. The school is not obligated to investigate the loss or damage of any ECD.

ECD Make: _____ # _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Contract

I, _____ (parent's name), understand this contract regarding my student's possession of an ECD on campus. I understand that the school and its employees are in no way responsible for any theft or damage of my child's ECD while on school grounds or participating in school sponsored events. The school is not obligated to investigate the loss or damage of any ECD.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____