Sparta Area School District

Article 322 – Personally-Owned Computing Devices

The Sparta Area School District permits the use of personally-owned devices by students and staff within the district within the guidelines of this policy. These devices include laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Access shall be provided via the sparta_guest wireless network, to which users can connect any device without a password. Upon connection, the user must affirm agreement with the SASD Acceptable Use Policy before accessing the internet.

Guidelines for students

1. Students may use personal devices during instructional time or private study time in classrooms at the discretion of the instructor and building administrator. Wireless access is available in most areas but is not yet guaranteed for each classroom in the district.
2. Students may not use personal devices to compromise the integrity of any instructional or assessment programs, i.e. using personal technology to cheat on exams or plagiarize material for an assignment.
3. Students may not use personal devices to take photographs or record audio or video while on district property, or while engaged in school-sponsored activities, unless approved by the instructor or building administrator. Never may personal devices be used to take pictures or video in locker rooms or restrooms. Data uploaded to audio/video sharing sites may be subject to disciplinary measure per the SASD Acceptable Use Policy.
4. Personally-owned devices are only allowed to access the sparta_guest wireless network. No personal devices will be allowed onto the spartaschools wireless network, or the wired network. All data will be filtered through a student-level content filter policy in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). No access to internal resources (file servers, printers, etc.) will be provided from this network. Printing may be accomplished by transferring to USB or cloud storage and retrieving from a school computer.
5. Students must not create, publish, submit, or display any materials or media that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation or illegal and should immediately report any instances encountered to the supervising instructor or building administrator. All student activity must comply with the Acceptable Use Policy.
6. All technology including electronic communication should be used for appropriate educational purposes only and should be consistent with the educational objectives of the Sparta Area School District. The SASD technology department will review communications to maintain system integrity and ensure responsible use of the system and compliance with the Acceptable Use Policy.
7. Personal devices that are being used for malicious intent, i.e. downloading illegal or copyrighted content, distributing viruses, or hacking attempts may be denied network access without further notice.
8. Students will not receive technical support from the district for personal devices. Students bringing a personal device to school are expected to understand how to connect their own equipment.
9. The Sparta Area School District will not provide software for personal devices. Students may receive access to cloud-based software or services (Office 365, Google Docs, Khan Academy, et al.) which may be used from the personal device.

10. The Sparta Area School District will not be held responsible for lost, stolen, misplaced, or damaged personal devices. Please understand the risks involved before bringing personal technology to school. Devices should be properly protected with a case or transport bag to minimize damage. Theft should be reported to the building administrator and/or police as soon as possible.

Guidelines for Staff

1. The use of technology as an educational tool is highly encouraged, however it is not a requirement that personal devices be allowed in the classroom.

2. If students have difficulty connecting to the sparta_guest network, please do not submit a tech request unless you are certain that the problem is affecting multiple users. We do not have the capacity to provide support for BYOD devices, however there may be cases where the sparta_guest network is malfunctioning as a whole, in which case IT should be notified.

3. Students who bypass the sparta_guest network and use their own unfiltered data service (Verizon, Sprint, etc.) are still subject to the Acceptable Use Policy on school grounds. Students found to be violating this policy on any communication device will be subject to disciplinary action.

4. Beware of entering your username and password (such as providing a content filter override) on a student’s personal device, as their web browser may be configured to automatically save this information. Staff members will be notified if override activity appears to be abnormal.

Legal Reference:

Cross Reference:

Approved: July 24, 2012

Revised: