

STUDENT USE OF INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES

I. Statement of Policy

The Vernon Verona Sherrill School District (the District) believes in the importance of having spaces that encourage sustained attention and focus on learning and instruction. The use and possession of personal Internet-Enabled Devices during the school day interferes with the ability of students to learn and engage with their teachers, staff, and fellow students.

II. Definitions

- A. Personal Internet-Enabled Device - any smartphone, tablet, smartwatch, or other device capable of connecting to the internet and enabling the user to access content on the internet, including social media applications.
- B. School day - the entire instructional day, during all instructional and non-instructional time, including but not limited to homeroom periods, lunch, recess, study halls, and passing times.
- C. School grounds - in or on or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a district elementary, intermediate, junior high, vocational, or high school, a charter school, or a board of cooperative educational services facility.

III. Prohibition of personal Internet-Enabled Devices in School

Per New York State Education Law §2803, the use of personal Internet-Enabled Devices by students during the school day anywhere on school grounds is prohibited.

IV. Exceptions

- A. This Policy is not violated when students are authorized to use a personal Internet-Enabled Device in the following situation(s):
 - 1. Where the use of an Internet-Enabled Device is part of the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan;
 - 2. Where it is needed for translation purposes;
 - 3. Where otherwise required by law.

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- B. It is not a violation of this Policy for a student to leave a personal Internet-Enabled Device in a locked vehicle during the school day or during school activities.

V. Consequences for Violations of this Policy

- A. The consequences for violation(s) of this Policy will be consistent with the Code of Conduct. However, the suspension of a student is not permitted if the sole grounds for the suspension is that the student accessed a personal Internet-Enabled Device in violation of this Policy.

- B. Confiscation

Personal Internet-Enabled Devices used in violation of this Policy will be surrendered to the Building Principal. Devices will be returned pursuant to the procedures outlined in the Code of Conduct.

VI. Contact During the School Day

Parents/Persons in parental relation will be notified in writing of the methods they can use to contact their student(s) during the school day. This notification will occur at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment. Parents/Persons in parental relation may contact their student(s) during the school day in the following manner:

- Contact the Principal's Office for general matters:
 - W.A. Wettel, Jessica Yerdon, Administrative Assistant- (315) 829-2520 X 1001
 - J.D. George, Jacqui Cole, Administrative Assistant- (315) 829-2520 X 2001
 - E. A. McAllister, Katherine McKenna, Administrative Assistant- (315) 829-2520 X 3001
 - VVS Middle School, Jessica Jones, Administrative Assistant- (315) 829-2520 X 4001
 - VVS High School, Deborah Haeger, Administrative Assistant- (315) 829-2520 X 5001
- Contact the Nurse's Office for calls related to a student's medical needs:
 - W.A. Wettel, Kristine Cowles- (315) 829-2520 X 1015
 - J.D. George, Jennifer Baker- (315) 829-2520 X 2015
 - E. A. McAllister, Krista Wayland-Smith- (315) 829-2520 X 3015

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- VVS Middle School, Stacey Roberts- (315) 829-2520 X 4015
- VVS High School, Andrea Buss- (315) 829-2520 X 5015

VII. Storing Personal Internet-Enabled Devices

- A. The District shall require students to store their personal Internet-Enabled Devices in their student lockers during the school day.
- B. The District will not be liable for loss, theft, or damage to personal Internet-Enabled Devices.

VIII. Required Notifications

- A. A copy of this Policy shall be posted in a clearly visible and accessible location on the District website.
- B. The District shall provide a translation of this Policy upon request of a student or parent/person in parental relation in accordance with the law.

IX. Annual Reporting

On September 1, 2026, and every September 1 thereafter, the District shall publish, on its website, an annual report that details the enforcement of this Policy during the prior school year. This report must include:

- A. Non-identifiable demographic data of students who have faced disciplinary action for non-compliance with this Policy.
- B. An analysis of any demographic disparities in enforcement.
- C. If a statistically significant disparate enforcement impact is identified, such report shall include a mitigation action plan.

X. Implementation

The Superintendent or their designee shall develop any Regulations or internal procedures that may be necessary to implement this Policy.

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Vernon-Verona-Sherrill School District

Legal Ref: NYS Education Law §2803

Cross Ref: 1025, Code of Conduct; 5301, Purpose Use and Administration of District Digital
Information Systems

Adopted: 7/29/2025