Student Code of Conduct

Classical Academy
ALBERTA

Phones and personal technology devices

Alberta Classical Academy is a smartphone-free and smart device-free environment. This policy is informed by a growing body of research on the negative impacts of screen time and social media on developing minds: excessive exposure to screen-based technologies has been shown to rewire the brain's rewards pathways, interfering with our capacity for sustained concentration, diminishing our ability to store and retain information, and leading to addiction. Social media and smartphone use is further correlated with a substantial rise in adolescent anxiety and depressive disorders.

Providing a screen-free environment allows students to escape these social pressures, and affords more freedom for deep reflection, concentration, and restful learning. We support our pupils in finding tranquility and stillness in their own souls, and to develop their intrinsic capacities, without need of external distraction.

As such, the following expectations for students apply:

- Students may not use smartphones or smart devices at Alberta Classical Academy schools or buses, unless express permission is given by a teacher or school administrator.
- If students require a phone to contact parents before or after school, "brick phones" (without internet connectivity) are encouraged as an alternative to smartphones.
- If a student must bring a phone or personal electronic device to school, the device must be put away in the student's locker or backpack and turned off during school hours, or stored with a teacher or at the front office.
- If a phone or personal internet-connected device is seen or heard by a staff member on school property and during school hours, the response can include the following:
    - Confiscation for the durations below:
        - First offense: device is returned to student at the end of the school week;
        - Second offense: device returned to student in four (4) weeks;
        - Third offense: device is returned to student in two (2) months.
    - Other disciplinary measures as determined by school administration, up to and including removal of the device from the property through disciplinary trebuchet.
- Where the period of confiscation exceeds the time remaining in the school year, the device will be returned on the final day of school.
- Reasonable exceptions to this policy may be made by school administration for students requiring accommodations (e.g. where technology is a necessary aid for audio or visual impairment).