



EKA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY

With the breathtaking pace of technology comes unanticipated consequences that can negatively impact the learning environment. One such example of this is the potential inappropriate use of Electronic Communication Devices (ECD.) Inappropriate ECD use impacting instruction may include:

1. Cheating on tests/class work via text messaging and cameras;
2. Circulation of inappropriate photos;
3. Video game distractions;
4. Ringing/text messaging distractions during instructional time;
5. Signaling for leaving class/ditching;
6. Contacting family members to leave school early;
7. Loss of instructional time to address ECD interruptions;
8. Time spent investigating thefts of ECD's rather than focusing on student instruction.

Of greater concern is the use of the ECD to compromise your child's safety. Nationwide, incidents of this nature include:

1. Setting up fights and fight locations;
2. Electronic threats/harassment;
3. Making drug deals;
4. Impeding emergency efforts through rumors and incorrect information;
5. Overloading phone systems severely limiting emergency communication.

To address these issues, Explore Knowledge Academy has set the following guidelines:

1. ECD's must be turned on vibrate/silent mode during the instructional day and passing periods.
2. ECD's may only be used prior to or after school, or during scheduled nutrition breaks or lunch periods.
3. ECD's should be stored in a non-visible location (backpacks, purses, pockets).
4. ECD's confiscated in violation of these guidelines will only be returned to a parent/guardian during non-instructional hours.
5. ECD's must remain off during a school evacuation, lockdown, or drill.

Additionally, parents are asked to silence their ECD's while at the school. Communication regarding your child's safety will in no way be hindered through these guidelines. Additionally, administrators and safety personnel are prepared with ECD's.

We understand how families have come to rely upon ECD's to maintain the lines of communication; however, we have an ethical and legal responsibility to ensure that technology is used in a way that will not be harmful to others or create unsafe conditions in our schools, or undermine our educational purpose.