



Gate City Charter School for the Arts Personal Device and Accessory Policy

The NH law banning personal devices in public schools means that while any student is **on the Gate City Charter School for the Arts campus during school hours (8:00am-3:30pm to include the dismissal period)** they are **prohibited from using or visible possession of any personal electronic devices or accessories.**

This includes:

- Cell phones, earbuds/headphones, and smart watches
- Personal laptops and tablets
- Gaming and entertainment devices

This policy DOES NOT apply to:

- Medical devices
- Noise cancelling headphones or loops
- Exceptions as noted below

These devices may not be used for any reason during school hours on school property. It is advised to not even bring personal electronic devices into the school or onto its grounds.

This policy extends to include school-sponsored, out-of-school activities and after school activities unless express permission is granted by an administrator or a staff member leading/advising/monitoring said activity.

In order to comply with this law, Gate City Charter School will provide each student with access to a school-issued device and any other equipment as necessary to engage in and master the curriculum.

Students will be expected to:

- Uphold the common expectation for all students to not use personal electronic devices or accessories at school or on its grounds (Locked storage is available for students who need to bring devices.)
- **Leave personal devices and accessories at home whenever possible. If a student must bring a device to school, it must remain completely powered off, stored out of sight, and not on their person. Devices may not be used, accessed, or visible at any time while on school grounds**

Parents and guardians will be expected to:

- Uphold the common expectation for all students to not use personal electronic devices or accessories at school
- NOT to text/call/message students during school
- Direct ALL communication through the front office phone or via email

As always we will work with both students and families to ensure that students are safe and able to communicate as needed with caregivers. Students will have access to office and staff school extensions when necessary.

Exceptions:

- Students with documented medical needs, such as monitoring blood sugar, will have access to needed devices.
- Students with IEPs, 504s, or other documented needs will work with staff and families collaboratively to honor their plans which incorporate devices.
- Emergencies as evident by threatening circumstances.
- Students with disabilities that require a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP) or plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, or a multilingual student with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 shall be exempt from this policy.
- Additionally, the Director or their designee may approve additional exceptions on a case-by-case basis or with respect to student medical, disability, or language proficiency needs.
- **Emergency Communications:** In the event of an emergency, GCCSA will make every effort to communicate with families prudently via
 - **Remind text messages**
 - **Automated phone calls**
 - **Website: www.gccsanh.org**
 - **Parent-focused social media such as Facebook/Instagram**
 - **Local media outlets**

If an unauthorized personal device is observed by any staff member at any time, or evidence of its use or visibility during school hours is found, students will immediately turn in their devices to staff to be held in the main office. If a personal device is collected during the school day, it will remain in the office. Parents or guardians will be contacted to come in and pick it up, as devices are not returned directly to students. ***Any devices held in the school office are not the responsibility of Gate City Charter***

School. Personal Device and Accessory Use During After-School Activities:

In general, after school device expectations are an extension of the school day policy. This general policy applies to all school-sponsored activities regardless of time or location, including:

- ***After-school clubs and tutoring***
- ***Athletics and extracurricular practices or competitions***
- ***Field trips and performances***
- ***School-sponsored community events***

General Expectations:

In general, the same standard of no personal device use applies outside the regular school day. However, there are limited permitted uses. Any use should not interfere with instruction, coaching, rehearsal, or the safety of participants.

Permitted Uses:

- ***Parent Communication:*** Students may use devices to coordinate pickup or safety-related needs after the activity ends if access to a school phone is unavailable and only with express permission of a staff member in a designated area.
- ***Instructional or Performance Use:*** Coaches, advisors, or directors may allow devices for music, choreography, filming practice for feedback, or other approved educational purposes.
- ***Emergencies:*** Immediate access to devices is allowed if a health or safety situation arises.
- ***As established by administration or supervising staff***

Enforcement: If a personal device is observed by any staff member at any time, or evidence of its use or

visibility during after school activities is found, supervising staff may request that a student immediately turn in their devices to staff, to be held in a designated location. Parents/guardians would then be notified to come into the school and retrieve the device themselves. Repeated violation of this policy may involve inability to participate in afterschool activities. **As always we will work with both students and families to ensure that students are safe and able to communicate as needed with caregivers.**

Any devices held in the school office or in designated locations after school locations are not the responsibility of Gate City Charter School. They may only be retrieved by parents/guardians- they will not be released back to students.

Review

The Superintendent shall annually review this policy in collaboration with parent(s) and teachers with a report and recommendations for policy changes to be delivered to the Board each August, prior to the start of school.