Ottl Family Digital Media Use Pledge (Adult/Parent)

Ottl Family Digital Medial Pledge and Rules

As a parent, it is my responsibility to be an example and model what others at our home can and will do. As a parent, it is my responsibility to train, guide, help, protect, and lead our children to proper use of digital media at our home. As a parent, it is my responsibility to grant, modify, or remove the privilege of technology use at our home.

Personal computers, TVs, SMART phones, tablets, and other digital media equipment are all amazing technologies. They are designed to help us solve problems, create, learn as well as connect, communicate, and exchange ideas with other people. They help us overcome limitations of time and space that traditionally prevented us to engage in such activities. We can do a lot more with than without them. However, when this technology replaces real relationships, exposes us to negative, toxic, destructive, or just inappropriate information, either by choice or accidentally by passive access exposure, this technology can, and will, work against us.

Similarly, positive, yet excessive use to entertain, overstudy, over-communicate, or simply overthink (analysis/paralysis), will also cause us to miss out on real life experiences and hold us back from reaching our potential and limit our possibilities. Our family believes parents lead by the example and help each family member develop and practice productive use of this technology in line with our family values, responsibilities, obligations, and goals. Parent to child training, on-going guidance, monitoring & transparency measures, development of boundaries around task/time use, are our primarily tools to reach this goal.

It is unreasonable to expect the children to do things right on their own. Since, as a parent, I am personally responsible to deal with consequences of improper use at my home, it is my duty and obligation to live up to this pledge to the best of my knowledge and abilities.

……………………………………… ……………..…………………………

(Parent signature) (Parent signature)

Ottl Family Digital Media Use Pledge (Children)

Computer, TV, Smart Phones, Tables, radios, games, etc. are examples of amazing technology designed to help us solve problems and learn. It helps us to connect and communicate with other people to share and exchange ideas.

When this technology replaces real relationships, prevents/holds us back from our responsibilities and obligations, or, due to our lack of character and weak moral values, exposes and engages us in negative, inappropriate, or destructive information, this technology works against us. Similarly, used for positive yet excessive use to entertain, overstudy, and over communicate, this technology will also cause us to miss out on real life.

Our family is committed to helping each family member do develop productive use of technology in line with our family values. Transparency and proper boundaries are our primary tools to reach our goal of safe and productive digital technology use. If this fails and if needed, our parents (or responsible adults) will limit or completely remove the privilege to use this technology.

As a child, it is my right to ask questions and receive kind corrections before any negative responses and consequences. It is not my fault to make a mistake when parents failed to train me or lead me first.

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(child’s signature) (parent’s signature)

Ottl Family Tech-Tips

1. All Tech-Time “WHERE” is done in public, shared areas, all screens are visible to parents
2. Tech-Time “HOW” rule is “Work before Pleasure”..use it as you need it for learning, solving problems, research, or approved communication and take breaks every 20-30 min to rest your eyes, stretch, and energize, and check on other responsibilities..
3. Tech-Time “WHEN” time-limit is granted and removed as a privilege by parent
4. Tech-Time “WHAT” activity – parents make a list of sites and apps to use or NOT
5. Tech-Time “SAFE” security – parents install parental controls/monitoring. Our favorite is: CovenantEyes.com
6. Tech-Time “WHY” - [Cyber Chip | Boy Scouts of America (scouting.org)](https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip/)
7. Parents lead by the example. (Period!)

**ALL Digital Technology is monitored by Covenant Eyes (dad is administrator and mom monitors dad)**

**Dominic (age 14)** Tech-Time day limit goal 4 hours

No electronics without parent approval or a parent present, open access, open screen

Approved use:

Classes, on-line learning, and goal/responsibility activity, email, calendar, research for BSA (Merit Badge or Rank), Adobe Suite, Draw, T610, BSA, Email, Khan Academy, GoPro, cooking recipes

YouTube (or similar) - parents permission present or permission only to open access, open screen

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Open Web – home use supervised to open access or library with library rules

E-mail/Messaging – communication with family members, BSA Troop, approved friends, free to communicate with Dad, Mom, brothers, grandparents, cousin Ja’Kari, BSA Troop, must copy Mom/Dad on all personal email to any adult or new contacts

**Nicholas (age 11)** Tech-Time day limit goal 2 hours

No electronics without parent approval or a parent present, open access, open screen

Approved Use:

Classes, on-line learning, and goal/responsibility activity approved by parent, Email, calendar, research for BSA (Merit Badge or Rank), AutoCad, Flocabulary, Khan Academy, non-internet applications like Word

Open Web – home use supervised to open access or library with library rules

YouTube: Parents must be present, “Salt Strong” channel is OK

Email/Messaging: Free to use E-mail as Dominic, communication with family members, BSA Troop, approved friends only, NO SOCIAL MEDIA WITHOUT A PARENT PRESENT

**Julian (age 9)** Tech-Time day limit goal 2 hours

Approved use: Same as Nicholas

Applications: No electronics without parent approval or a parent present, open access, open screen

AutoCad, Flocabulary, Khan Academy, WORD, Excel, Email