

HCA Digital Device Policy

Please review the [Technology Use Agreement Plan](#) for a more complete description of HCA's policy on all tech use at school.

Rationale of Policy

As Christians we are challenged everyday to navigate the world. The digital age has brought many new challenges that are both great opportunities for good and great opportunities for evil. All things that we have access to in life are first and foremost indifferent when it comes to evil or good. But, when our hearts and hands are put to created things, our purpose or intent decides what they will be called. This is how even in the act of worship man can change a good to an evil. This is often stated in the Scriptures such as the vivid description from the prophet Isaiah as he writes,

““He who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a man; he who sacrifices a lamb, like one who breaks a dog's neck; he who presents a grain offering, like one who offers pig's blood; he who makes a memorial offering of frankincense, like one who blesses an idol. These have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations;” (Isaiah 66:3)

At HCA we represent a diverse community of Bible believing, conservative Christians. HCA wants our policies to support and represent the goals of the home, and we believe that this is done by a well rounded policy. We know that no policy could perfectly represent a community with such wonderful diversity, and a digital device policy is a great challenge to establish. The goals of a digital device policy are as follows:

1. To create a healthy distraction free learning environment
2. To give clear consequences for improper use of digital devices
3. To give manageable rules to teachers

Cell Phone Usage Policy

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to create a conducive learning environment by minimizing distractions and promoting active engagement in academic activities during school hours.

Scope: This policy applies to all students of Heritage Christian Academy.

Policy Statement: Students are to turn off their phones and place them in their homeroom teachers cell phone holder before the first bell. Students may retrieve the phones after the last bell of the school day.

Exceptions

1. Off campus Classes: students will check in their phones in the office and may retrieve their phones before leaving to attend an off campus class. Phones are to be returned to the office phone holder when they return.
2. Contacting Parents or Guardians: Students are permitted to use the school cell phones to contact their parents or guardians in cases of emergency or other school-related matters during school hours. However, students will seek permission from a teacher or school staff member before making the call and phone calls will only take place in a designated area.

3. If a student arrives late to school, or knows they need to leave school early, they may check their phone into the office so as not to interrupt the homeroom class where it would normally be stored.

Implementation: To ensure effective implementation of this policy, the following measures will be observed:

1. Education and Awareness: At the beginning of each school year, students, parents, and guardians will be informed about the cell phone usage policy through the student handbook, parent orientations, and school website.
2. Classroom Guidelines: Teachers will communicate the policy to students at the start of the school year and set clear expectations for when cell phone use is permitted.
3. Enforcement: School staff members, including teachers and administrators, are responsible for enforcing the policy consistently.
 - a. First Offense: If a student is found to be using their cell phone, the phone will be confiscated and the student may pick it up from the office at the end of the school day. This is also an 8th hour demerit.
 - b. Second Offense: If a student is found to be using their cell phone a second time, the phone will be confiscated and may be claimed by a parent/guardian at the end of the school day. This is also an 8th hour demerit.
 - c. Third Offense: If a student is found to be using their cell phone a third time, they will be required to check their cell phone into the office each morning for a month. This is also an 8th hour detention.

By adhering to this cell phone usage policy, we aim to foster an environment that prioritizes learning, encourages respectful communication, and promotes responsible use of technology among our student body. Staff members are encouraged to model appropriate cell phone behavior by refraining from personal cell phone use during instructional time.