

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { } ACTION { X } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT - ACTION**

BCHS Policy Amendments (Digital Media) – Mrs. Rowe

BACKGROUND: **Mrs. Rowe has revised the BCHS policy that was first implemented during the 2010-2011 school year to clarify what is and is not allowed regarding the use of various communication devices during the instructional day as defined by the school handbook.**

RECOMMENDATION: **Approval is recommended for inclusion in the BCHS student handbook.**

DRAFT 2012-13

Digital Communication Device Policy

(mobile cellular phones, pagers, PDAs, mp3 players, iPods, iPads, Tablets etc.)

This further defines BCPS policy JFC-R: Possession of ~~Beepers~~, Cellular Telephones, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), or Similar Devices: Students may possess a ~~beeper~~, cellular telephone, Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or other communications device, mp3 player, iPod, iPad, or Tablet on school property, including school buses, provided that the device must remain off and out of sight during the instructional day as defined by the BCHS, MES, and VES Student Handbooks. If a student possesses such a device other than as permitted in this policy, in addition to other disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed, the device may be confiscated from the student and returned only to the student's parent.

Bath County High School recognizes parental concern about student safety while traveling to and from school and events and while at school. Therefore, BCHS will allow students to possess digital ~~communication~~ devices (including any electronic recording, play-back or storage device) provided the following rules are strictly adhered to:

- 1) Bath County Public Schools, Bath County High School, or any faculty or staff member will not be held responsible at any time for any form of loss, theft, and/or damage to any digital ~~communication~~ device that is brought to school.
- 2) Digital ~~communication~~ devices must be **TURNED OFF** no later than the first bell and must remain off during class and lunch periods until 3:20 pm. ~~Use includes out-going calls, in-coming calls, text messaging, camera use, game playing, and/or any other function of the digital communication device. iPod use is at the discretion of the teacher.~~ Use of personal iPads and tablets during class will be left up to teacher discretion.
- 3) Digital devices are to be turned off and placed in lockers, backpacks or purses, on the teacher's desk at the beginning of class. Those not placed will be subject to confiscation if seen or heard.
- 4) Parents are expected to call the school for any emergency situation.
- 5) Students are expected to report to the office ~~to call home~~ to make any outgoing calls.
- 6) At no time should a student ask a bus driver to speak to a parent or guardian on a mobile cellular phone and/or pager. ALL changes in bus transportation MUST be routed through the main office so that proper bus passes and documentation can occur. Should an unfortunate event occur, it is imperative that the school have accurate information as to the whereabouts of each student.
- 7) Violation of this policy will result in the following consequences:
 - a. 1st offense
 - i. Digital ~~communication~~ device will be confiscated and brought to the office ~~placed in the school safe~~ for ONE WEEK DAY. (Student may pick-up device at the end of the week day.)
 - b. 2nd offense
 - i. Digital ~~communication~~ device will be confiscated and placed in the school safe for THIRTY DAYS ONE WEEK. (Parent must pick-up ~~phone~~ device at the end of the one week period. Digital devices will not be returned to students thirty-day period.)
 - c. 3rd offense
 - i. Digital ~~communication~~ device will be confiscated for thirty school days and the student will be assigned Extended Evening School. REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. (Parent must pick-up ~~phone~~ device at the end of the 30 day period year.)
 - d. Offenses beyond three:
 - i. Digital device will be confiscated for another period of thirty school days and the student will be suspended from school.
 - e. Refusal to relinquish device:
 - i. A student may be asked by any staff member to relinquish their digital device. Failure to do so will be viewed as defiance and referred to the office. The principal then reserves the right to confiscate the device for any of the established time periods. Failure to relinquish the device to the principal will result in suspension.
- 8) The above consequences will apply regardless of to whom the digital ~~communication~~ device belongs.
 - a. In other words, student A borrows student B's phone and is in violation of the policy. Student B's phone is confiscated. Student A has committed his/her first offense. Next offense by student A will place him/her at the 2nd offense level.
- 9) ~~At no time will Bath County Public Schools, Bath County High School or any faculty or staff member be held responsible for loss, theft, and/or damage to a digital communication device.~~

*Student Signature

Date

*Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

*Signature acknowledges that the above Mobile- Cellular Phone/Pager Policy has been received and read.

2010-11

Digital Communication Device Policy
(mobile phones, pagers, PDAs, mp3 players, iPods, etc.)
This further defines BCPS policy JFC-R.

Bath County High School recognizes parental concern about student safety while traveling to and from school and events and while at school. Therefore, BCHS will allow students to possess digital communication devices (including any electronic recording, play-back or storage device) provided the following rules are strictly adhered to:

- 1) **Bath County Public Schools, Bath County High School, or any faculty or staff member will not be held responsible at any time for any form of loss, theft, and/or damage to any digital communication device that is brought to school.**
- 2) Digital communication devices must be **TURNED OFF** no later than the first bell and must remain off during class and lunch periods. Use includes out-going calls, in-coming calls, text messaging, camera use, game-playing, and/or any other function of the digital communication device. iPod use is at the discretion of the teacher.
- 3) Digital devices are to be turned off and placed on the teacher's desk at the beginning of class. Those not placed will be subject to confiscation if seen or heard.
- 4) Parents are expected to call the school for any emergency situation.
- 5) Students are expected to report to the office to call home.
- 6) At no time should a student ask a bus driver to speak to a parent or guardian on a mobile phone and/or pager. **ALL** changes in bus transportation **MUST** be routed through the main office so that proper bus passes and documentation can occur. Should an unfortunate event occur, it is imperative that the school have accurate information as to the whereabouts of each student.
- 7) Violation of this policy will result in the following consequences:
 - a. 1st offense
 - i. Digital communication device will be confiscated and placed in the school safe for **ONE WEEK**. (Student may pick-up device at the end of the week.)
 - b. 2nd offense
 - i. Digital communication device will be confiscated for **THIRTY DAYS**. (Parent must pick-up phone at the end of the thirty-day period.)
 - c. 3rd offense
 - i. Digital communication device will be confiscated for the **REMAINDER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**. (Parent must pick-up phone at the end of the year.)
- 8) The above consequences will apply regardless of to whom the digital communication device belongs.
 - a. In other words, student A borrows student B's phone and is in violation of the policy. Student B's phone is confiscated. Student A has committed his/her first offense. Next offense by student A will place him/her at the 2nd offense level.
- 9) **At no time will Bath County Public Schools, Bath County High School or any faculty or staff member be held responsible for loss, theft, and/or damage to a digital communication device.**

*Student Signature
Date

Date

*Parent/Guardian Signature

*Signature acknowledges that the above Mobile Phone/Pager Policy has been received and read.