

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

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

SUBJECT: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ACTION

Consider Digital Device Regulation

BACKGROUND: Mrs. Rowe has revised the BCBS regulation 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.

RECOMMENDATION: After review by the administrative staff, approval is recommended for inclusion in the BCBS student handbook for the 2012-2013 school year.

Digital Device Regulation
(cellular phones, mp3 players, iPods, iPads, Tablets etc.)

BCPS regulation JFC-R: Possession of cellular telephones, or similar devices: Students may possess a, cellular telephone, or other communications device, mp3 player, iPod, iPad, or other Tablet on school property, including school buses, provided that the device must remain off and out of sight during the instructional day. 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 Public Schools recognizes parental concern about student safety while traveling to and from school and events and while at school. Therefore, BCPS will allow students to possess digital devices (including any electronic recording, play-back or storage device) provided the following rules are strictly adhered to:

- 1) **Bath County Public Schools-faculty or staff members will not be held responsible at any time for any form of loss, theft, and/or damage to any digital device that is brought to school.**
- 2) Digital devices must be **TURNED OFF** no later than the first bell and must remain off until the last bell. Use of personal iPads and other tablets of 5 inches or greater during class will be left up to teacher discretion.
- 3) Digital devices are to be turned off and placed in lockers, backpacks or purses. Those not placed will be subject to confiscation if seen or heard.
- 4) Students are expected to report to the office to make any outgoing calls.
- 5) Parents are expected to call the school to contact their children.
- 6) At no time should a student ask a bus driver to speak to a parent or guardian on a cellular phone. **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 device will be confiscated and brought to the office for **ONE DAY**. (Device will only be returned to parent or guardian. Digital devices will not be returned to students. Digital devices confiscated during 9th or 10th period will not be returned until the end of the following day.)
 - b. 2nd offense
 - i. Digital device will be confiscated and placed in the school safe for **ONE WEEK**. (Device will only be returned to parent or guardian. Digital devices will not be returned to students.)
 - c. 3rd offense
 - i. Digital device will be confiscated for thirty days and placed in the school safe. The student will be assigned in-school suspension or Extended Evening School. (Device will only be returned to parent or guardian. Digital devices will not be returned to students.)
 - d. Offenses beyond three:
 - i. Digital device will be confiscated for another period of thirty days and the student may be suspended from school. (Device will only be returned to parent or guardian. Digital devices will not be returned to students.)
 - 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 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.

*Student Signature

Date

*Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

*Signature acknowledges that the above Digital Device Regulation has been received and read.