

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Technology resources at SSCS are provided for the purpose of supporting the educational mission of the School. The School's goal in providing the iPad to students is to promote educational excellence, and to increase student achievement and engagement by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, research, creativity, communication, increased productivity, and mobile learning.

Students in grades 7-12 will be issued a device to support their learning while at SSCS. Teachers at Sharon Springs utilize blended learning instructional practices. This involves instructional practices that leverage technology-based and face-to face instructional approaches as well as other digital learning practices such as use of interactive learning resources, digital learning software, online and computer-based assessments and/ or simulations that engage students in academic content.

Students that do not attend SSCS for any portion of their academic day (early entry college programs, full day BOCES placements, alternative ed, New Visions, home school, private school, selective attendance at another district...) will not be issued an iPad. Students can appeal to be issued a computer device for instructional purposes. The appeal must document and support the need for the device to support a blended learning environment and to maintain a level playing field with other students in the class in terms of access.

All students should recognize that the school issued device remains the property of Sharon Springs Central School and that usage is a privilege that will be removed if necessary. All SSCS iPads must be kept secure in an approved protective case, and using the iPad for commercial purposes is prohibited. Any attempts to bypass the filter, disrupt the network, or are illegal in anyway is prohibited as well. In addition, the device is subject to inspection at any time without notice.

Any other electronic device, such as student cell phones, that have not received prior authorization by the classroom teacher or administration, is prohibited. Their use can be potentially disruptive to the educational process and/or present a safety concern. Such items will be confiscated and the student will be subject to disciplinary action. School rules prohibit the display and or use of cell phones, pagers, beepers, electronic games, CD and MP3 players, boom boxes, walkmans, laser lights, or any other electronic devices during the school day without authorization of the building administration. While the District discourages any student from bringing these items to

school, one who chooses to bring an electronic device should store the item in the “off” position, secured, and locked in one’s locker for the entire day. Unauthorized items will be confiscated and kept in the administrative office until the end of the day, and/or returned to parents. The District is not responsible if these items are lost or stolen.

In specific circumstances, approval may be given for:

1. The use of electronic devices on bus runs if approved by the bus driver in charge.
2. The use of specific electronic devices by special education students for educational purposes as stipulated in their IEP’s.
3. The use of cell phones for parent contact after dismissal regarding the estimated time of arrival when students are returning from away games or activities may be approved by the student’s supervisor/advisor/bus driver.

The Board of Education recognizes the seriousness of the dangers of laser lights and, therefore, prohibits them not only in school but also on school buses. Clearance will be given to the teaching staff for instructional purposes and use of a wireless mouse that is equipped with a laser pointer. This device will be used in conjunction with the laptop computers and LCD projectors for delivery of classroom instruction.
