



LOUDONVILLE

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

July 2024

Dear Upper School Parents:

You are likely well into summer mode as you read this! Thank you for responding to our survey, providing information that we utilized in order to make wise and effective decisions regarding cell phones and other smart devices for the 2024-2025 school year. Our new approach to these devices will also align with our movement to Chromebooks in 7th and 8th grade.

LCS is committed to partnering with families to achieve the highest academic, social, and spiritual outcomes for their students while ensuring their safety while in our care. We believe that the access to cell phones and smart devices impose a significant distraction and inhibit the environment we have committed to provide for our students. We have looked at an array of research including data collected from a local school district that has successfully eliminated phone usage during the entire school day, as well as data accumulated in other parts of the country and even globally. Informed by the data, and in order to meet the educational priorities, maximizing the possibilities for classroom engagement, and promoting a healthy social-emotional atmosphere, we have established the technology guidelines below for the 2024-25 school year.

Our new policy and procedures are defined below (with the potential for slight addendums):

Grade(s)	Guidelines
Grades 6-11	Students in grades 6-11 will give their cell phones and smart devices to their advisor during Morning Meet. It will be kept in a lock box in the advisor's room/office. If a student arrives late to school, the staff in the Main Office will retrieve the devices and give them to the class advisor. Students leaving before the close of the day will be given their cell phones and smart devices upon exiting the building. Cell phones and smart devices will be returned to all students by their advisor at dismissal.
Grade 12	Students in Grade 12 will be required to leave cell phones and smart devices in their lockers or backpacks. If the cell phone or smart device is used by the student in class without permission, it will be taken until dismissal. Seniors who earn Senior Privileges can use their phones in the Senior Room and if Seniors leave the building for appointments or as a benefit of Senior Privileges, they may take their cell phones with them. Absolutely no phone use in the hallways or bathrooms;

Grades 6-12

All students in grades 6-12 must keep headphones and earbuds in their locker or backpack during the school day. If a classroom teacher allows students to listen to music while working on the IPAD or Laptop, the students will be allowed to access the headphones or earbuds then put them away when they are finished with that work or class.

There will be no cell phone or smart device usage in classes, hallways, regular study halls and C Period for all students in Grades 6-12. Laptop use will be used for curricular reasons only and at the discretion of the teacher. At the close of the school day, all students will receive their cell phones and smart devices when they arrive in their dismissal room.

Here are a few prime resources that address the issue of technology use and encourage thoughtful and informed decisions regarding these devices:

- **The Social Dilemma, a docudrama from 2020 that can be viewed on Netflix-it is a must watch for all families**(Tech experts from Silicon Valley sound the alarm on the dangerous impact of social networking, which Big Tech use in an attempt to manipulate and influence)
- **NY Times Guest Essay from June 17, 2024, “Surgeon General: Why I’m Calling for a Warning Label on Social Media Platforms.” by Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, Surgeon General**
- **God, Technology, and the Christian Life** by Tony Reinke- this book can be found on Amazon
- <https://axis.org/resource/a-parent-guide-to-smartphones/>

Student safety is a high priority at LCS. Law enforcement officials report that having multiple texts circulating between students and families can actually be more dangerous and less effective than one emergency alert directed to all families with one message at one time. The Main Office staff are prepared to receive messages and deliver timely email communication and critical text reminders for the LCS Community.

Thank you for your support and participation as we encourage our students to attend and engage more deeply in the educational process here at LCS. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me or to Brian Vlieg, our Head of School at bvlieg@lcs.org.

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