

St. Joseph High School 2025-26

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICIES

To make sure students are in an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth and academic excellence, STJ limits the use of certain personal electronic devices on campus. Any electronic device or accessory including cell phones, smart watches, tablets, gaming systems, laptops, earbuds, etc. will be subject to the following policies:

- Smart watches or glasses that send or receive communications are not allowed at any time or place during the school day.
- All other personal electronic devices are not permitted to be visible and/or used at any point during the school day (inside *or* outside of campus buildings). These same rules apply during Mass off campus or special assemblies in the Flyer Dome. Devices should be turned off and put away during attendance at before and after-school tutorials.
- Individual teachers may have specific academic policies concerning electronic devices. Electronic devices may be used for educational purposes under the specific instruction of a teacher. Electronic devices should not be used in a classroom for non-academic purposes.
- Any device visible or in use during the school day (8:30 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.) will be confiscated. All confiscated devices will be held in the Administration Building front office until the end of the school day.
- Earbuds, headphones, etc. are not permitted to be visible and/or used in prohibited areas unless specified by a teacher or administrator.

Consequences for Violation of Personal Electronic Device Policies		
1st infraction	Confiscation / \$50 fee	Upon payment of fee, the device can be retrieved by parent or legal guardian. (1st Notice signed and returned)
2nd infraction	Confiscation / \$50 fee	Device turned in before school for 2 weeks; Co-Curricular Suspension of 1 day; upon payment of fee, the device can be retrieved by parent or legal guardian; Behavioral Change Plan (BCP*) put in place (with student/parent signature) <i>*If a parent/guardian wants to manage device confiscation within their family at home, please make the Dean of Students aware of the arrangement.</i>
3rd infraction	Confiscation / \$50 fee	Device turned in before school for duration of the semester; Co-Curricular Suspension of 1 week; upon payment of fee, the device can be retrieved by parent or legal guardian; BCP extension; loss of good disciplinary standing
<i>Behavioral Change Plan: A plan of action designed to address a behavior requiring change, created in partnership with an advising administrator including feedback from the student, parents, coach or club sponsors, and teachers. Monitored for accountability and support of the student's needs.</i>		

For more information on fees, see Texas Education Code Sec. 37.082.

All funds collected from cell phone violations will be used to purchase safety and security equipment for the school.

Student cell phone violation counts will reset at the end of the semester.

Photo, Video, or Audio Capture on School Grounds

We believe that the school day should be free from the distractions of social media, attending to an online presence, or the concern of being depicted in captured images shared through direct transfer or an online platform. In many instances, negative student behaviors are instigated or intensified when a situation starts being captured through digital media. To ensure that our school climate is free from these influences, we take a deliberate stand for the benefit of our students and their wellbeing. Collecting visual media (photos, video, or audio) with any device during the school day is expressly prohibited on the St. Joseph High School campus, vehicles, or other facilities contracted by St. Joseph High school for use during the academic day.

If a student captures images (photo, video, or audio) at any time on campus, in school vehicles, or at any other facility contracted by St. Joseph High School, of actions that violate any school policy, that student will be considered an active participant and instigator in the event and be subject to co-curricular suspension, loss of academic honors, or expulsion. Any circumstances created to embarrass, belittle, demean, coerce, or intimidate is expressly prohibited at all times.

Student journalism and use of devices for a classroom assignment are exceptions to this policy; however, if that capacity is abused for any of the reasons listed above, that exception will be rescinded. Special events may be identified as appropriate exceptions to this policy. Pep rallies, special masses, and ceremonies may be authorized as exceptions to this policy; that authorized exception does not supersede the spirit of the policy to prevent the negative use of captured media.

Lunch Guidelines

St. Joseph High School recognizes the importance of healthy socialization for teenagers and acknowledges the growing body of research which highlights the risks of over consumption of social media and other internet content through personal electronic devices. In addition to personal electronic devices, laptops or gaming systems will not be used in the cafeteria during lunch.