



## Riverbend Academy's Approach to the Use of Technology

In Colossians 3:17, the Scripture says, *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

At Riverbend Academy, we strive to abide by this command each day and make it our goal to cultivate a culture where our students can fully immerse themselves in the love of learning and develop the skills necessary to become pursuers of goodness, truth and beauty throughout their lives.

A uniquely classical approach to a distinctly Christian education requires students to give their full and undivided attention to reading, writing, speaking, listening and carrying out other tasks in an explicitly and directly human way in relation to their teacher and classmates that can be disrupted by technology. While technology will be used by teachers and students to accomplish academic activities, it will be the classroom instructor who will determine when and how the technology is to be used.

Technology is a gift from God and should be used for work and activities that glorify God and bear fruit for His kingdom. Yet, because of human sin, technology can be used to give expression to our sin. Therefore, we must be wise and discerning to ensure that we are using technology to assist us in our God glorifying work. Since Riverbend Academy is committed to building and maintaining a loving academic community that provides a uniquely classical approach to a distinctly Christian education, our tech policy is shaped by and seeks to fulfill this commitment

In accordance with our desire to fulfill our commitment to Christ and to our student body, we have come to the conviction that cell phones and smart watches do not serve to improve the classroom experience and foster a love of learning but instead become means of distraction and disturbance. While we do encourage our families to refrain from bringing student phones on campus, we will come alongside parents who desire their students to have cell phones on campus.

Student cell phones must be turned off from 8:00am to 3:00 pm, -- other than during lunch Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Friday, wherein calling and texting will be permitted.

Student cell phones are under the following conditions only:

1. **Cell phones are required to be OFF and out of sight (in a backpack or locker) in order to be allowed on campus. Smart watches may ONLY be used to tell time and may not be used for any other purpose, except during designated lunchtimes. (high school only).**
2. Each parent requesting their student to have a cell phone on campus must complete, sign, and submit a cell phone permission contract form to the school office requesting that their student be allowed to have a cell phone on campus.
3. Once a student is granted permission by the administration to have a cell phone on campus, the following rules will be strictly enforced. The student must read and verbally declare understanding of the contract to their parents before signing the cell phone contract.
  - **K – 8:** Students may not use their cell phones in class. **Student cell phones must be turned off and secured in their locker or backpack** during normal school hours and remain off during the aftercare program.
  - **9 – 12:** Students may not use their cell phones in class. **Student cell phones must be turned off and secured in their backpack or locker, from 8:00am to 3:00 pm, -- other than at lunch (high school only).** However, phones are not permitted to be used by students during lunch on Wednesdays. Students are being trusted with limited and responsible use of a cell phone; this privilege will be revoked if irresponsible use becomes evident. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the confiscation of the cell phone for that day. At day's end, the phone will be returned only to parents when requested in the office. For additional details, please see the parent/student handbook at [www.RiverbendAcademy.org](http://www.RiverbendAcademy.org).

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