Electronic Device Ban

Gerson School has a ban on all student-owned electronic devices. By electronic devices, we mean *cell phones*, portable gaming systems, music players, earbuds and headphones, laptops, tablets, watches with data or Wi-Fi capability, or any other electronic device that we deem to be a student-owned device used for communication or internet access. By ban, we mean that students will not be permitted to carry these devices into the school building or have use of them during the school day. All devices will be submitted to staff and checked in upon entry to the building and stored securely until the student leaves school for the day, at which time they will be returned to the student. Failure to comply with this ban may result in the student engaging in alternative aspects of their programming. It may also warrant implementing one of the behavior management options discussed in the Code of Conduct and/or a meeting with the student's parent/guardian.

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's IEP, developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code, or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973" 29 U.S.C. 794. Students that may require the use of a cell phone for medical needs should develop, with the assistance of their medical provider and school team, an Individual Health Care Plan. Additional resources and guidance regarding these issues may be found [here](#).

Please note that this policy is in accordance with [Ohio House Bill 250](#), which was signed into law by the governor of Ohio on May 15, 2024. A model policy, created by The Ohio Department of Education & Workforce, may be found [here](#). Additional information regarding Ohio's Law and Gerson's Electronic Device Ban, as well as research and rationale for them, may be found in the following links: [Cell Phones in Ohio Schools](#) and [Supports For Families](#).