



Parents/Guardians of 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Students,

The Merton Community Schools will be using the following as a guideline for the 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students, which permits the use of personal electronic devices in our schools. The purpose of this guideline is to recognize the value of these tools in an educational environment and to allow teachers the flexibility to make use of student personal devices for educational work in the classroom. **The guideline is very clear that PERSONAL use of these devices is not permitted in classrooms.** When in class, students are expected to be focused on learning! Teachers will have ultimate control of how and when the devices will be used in individual classrooms. In some classrooms, students will be allowed to use their devices for non-educational purposes during certain times of the day which are deemed by school administration to be non-educational time. An example might be during the lunch hour. These rules vary by classroom and ultimately the teacher or principal will decide what is appropriate for their classroom or school.

When you sign the agreement which allows your child(ren) to bring a device to school, you are agreeing that if the device is used in a manner which violated school rules or the law, the device will be confiscated and it may be searched by the district. In the event of a serious offense, law enforcement may be asked to participate in the investigation. Parents will be contacted immediately if a device is confiscated. School administration will decide if a rule has been violated. Violation of rules, policies, or laws can result in revocation of privileges or other disciplinary action.

We also would like to mention that in many classrooms, our teachers are already using these technologies in a very successful fashion. Devices such as iPods, iPads and netbooks are the

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technologies that they have had the most success with due to the long battery life and the instant-on capability's. Devices in general which turn on very quickly, have a good battery life, and which have wifi capabilities, will be of more use in class than a traditional laptop as they typically only last 3-5 hours and also are very inconvenient to keep safe if they will not fit in a locker. The school district does not in any way provide technical support for personal devices other than connecting to our wifi, and is not responsible for devices that are lost, stolen, or broken. Bringing a device to school is a major responsibility. If you are concerned about theft or do not feel that your student is responsible enough to bring a device to school, DO NOT SIGN THE AGREEMENT! Also, please read the entire guideline and FAQ's about the project before agreeing to it. We look forward to the new opportunities that this pilot can offer our students as we work hard to teach 21st century skills!

To access the Personal Wireless Electronic Device Guidelines and the Project Specific FAQ's please visit this website page: <http://www.merton.k12.wi.us/byod.cfm>

Thank you,

Tina Heizman,  
Director of Information Technology