



# FISHBURNE

## MILITARY SCHOOL

POLICY LETTER E Use of Personal Electronic Devices by Cadets at Fishburne Military School. 1 AUG 2024

ELECTRONICS POLICY: Being skilled at using technology is highly valued at Fishburne Military School. Technology is leveraged throughout the school and the classroom. Fishburne recognizes the advantages in collaboration, information sharing and data accessibility that come with the digital age.

Fishburne Military School also recognizes the many pitfalls, distractions and even dangers presented to our youth in the virtual domain. We advocate a thorough study of *The Anxious Generation, How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*, by Jonathan Haidt, Penguin Press, New York, 2024.

With these considerations, Fishburne has the following technology policy for Academic Year 2024-25.

NOTE: These rules and proscriptions will vary by academic year and class standing. It is a “Myth” for instance that seniors get cell phones merely because they are seniors; or that computing devices besides the issued chrome books are permitted.

Here is a list of electronic devices students may bring to Fishburne:

- One and Only One - Smart Phone **or** Flip Phone – we recommend parents place parental controls and monitoring software on their child’s phone through available software such as *Securely, mSpy, Qstodio, Norton Family, Boomerang, Circle* etc. We advocate no Smart Phone for youth under 14; and no Social media for youth under 16. Nevertheless, this is a parental decision.
- eReaders - PaperWhite style only. NO Color eReaders are permitted. No eReaders with SIM card slots are permitted.
- Small Blue-tooth speakers, ear-buds (discouraged and never worn unless in PT Uniform and in room or weight-room)
- Mp3 players without SIM Slots or Video are okay. A few remain on the market. iPods are NOT approved. However, devices such as this may be approved. <https://www.amazon.com/SMARTGO-Bluetooth-Keyboard-Players-Pictures/dp/B09NJMPDNC>
- Computer Monitors under 24”. Note: Computer Monitors that double as Smart TVs or have their own remote controls are NOT permitted. These stand-alone monitors may remain in the student’s room.

- Alarm Clocks, Desk Lamps, Electric Razors, Musical Instruments, Stand-alone Amplifiers, Polaroid Cameras, Stand-alone Digital Cameras.

ALL electronic devices will be personally inspected by the Commandant or his designee. Since technology changes all the time, prepare to be surprised by the occasional “no” when we encounter items that don’t fit neatly in the forgoing categories. One rule of thumb: If it’s got a SIM slot, it’s a “no.”

Here is a list of items that are NOT permitted – even if they had been permitted in previous years:

- Tablets with SIM Slots
- Personal Hotspots
- Desktop or Tower Personal Computers
- Personal Computers (Laptop & Gaming Systems) & Refrigerators \*
  - Exception for AY 24-25 – Seniors and Juniors Only may have during 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester.
  - Exception for AY 25-26 – Seniors Only may have during 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester.
  - After AY '26, NO ONE may have these items

\*ROOKS who are also Juniors or Seniors will also not have Laptops, Gaming Systems or Refrigerators during their Rook Period.

**Special Note:** For the next two academic years, the use of Refrigerators, Gaming Systems and Personal Computers is a privilege and will be regulated in much the same way we regulate Smart Phones. After AY 25-26 Concludes, Fishburne will no longer permit any Personal Computers or in-Room refrigerators for anyone. In the interim, Fishburne will take no financial responsibility or liability of Personal Computers, Refrigerators or Gaming Systems. Additionally, if something happens to any of these systems; except in very extreme circumstances, Fishburne will not conduct investigations to determine who is responsible for their breaking. Students bring and use these items at their own risk. Be advised, the Commandant discourages everyone, regardless of rank, age or status in the School, from bringing them.

Finally, avoid bringing expensive and highly pilferable items.

### **Rules governing use of Personal Electronics**

ARRIVAL: **ALL Cadets** (Juniors and Seniors too) will turn in Smart Phone and Gaming Systems the first two weeks of the year. This is a burn-in period where the Juniors and Seniors lead their peers by example, showing “it can be done!”

ROOK PERIOD: ROOKs will not receive their phone until after the Rook break-out.

#### DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR:

Those over SSG in Rank **and** in good standing behaviorally **and** academically (3.5 GPA or with proper faculty approval) will receive their phones after the first two weeks. They may keep them, provided they follow the below expectations. They are under the same rules as the rest of the Corps as pertaining to gaming systems or laptops (see below.)

Those under SSG in Rank **and** in good standing behaviorally **and** academically (3.0 GPA or with proper faculty approval) may pick up their phones/ (game systems/laptops after Christmas) on Friday after Dinner, Laundry Turn-In and satisfactory Barracks Inspection. They must return them Sunday before Study sessions.

NOTE ON WEEKENDS: Cadets will be mandated to attend a running 75% of available off-campus events/trips (sports, fieldtrips etc.) during their stay at Fishburne. Example: If four weeks have gone by and a cadet has NOT attended at least three off-campus “long trip” opportunities the previous Saturdays, then they will NOT get their gaming system/laptop until they reach 75% attendance at available off-campus events. This policy is in place to prevent students from retreating to their gaming systems every weekend instead of partaking in the many exciting and well-rounding experiences we are trying to offer at Fishburne.

Day Students under the rank of SSG will turn in their phones during daily check-in and pick-them up upon departure.

For those possessing phones Here are the expectations: (Demerits and Consequences to be published later.) Suffice it to say, these are the fastest ways to lose the privilege of using your phone.

- Lock Phones under your bed until academic and sports periods are complete for the day.
- Never walk with your phone in your hand.
- Reading your phone screen while walking is an even greater offense.
- Phones are not allowed in classrooms or mess hall.
- Phones are not allowed during drill or JROTC activities.
- Phones are not allowed during formations or sports.
- Headphones or earbuds are allowed in the Cadets room or field house only – NOT on the Stoops or any other locations at Fishburne without faculty or staff approval.

- NOTE: Turning in your phone or gaming system LATE (after Sunday Study-period begins) will be treated as a failure to turn it in at all. Turning in a Dummy or extra Phone will result in an Honor Violation for which dismissal is a possibility.

SECURITY: Fishburne Military School applies security settings to our networks and issued devices such as Chromebooks. Willfully attempting to violate or circumnavigate those settings is grounds for dismissal. This includes the full *Securly* suite for Chromebook as well as network filtering on the wired and wireless networks to deal with non-chrome OS devices. Using a VPN is unauthorized and turning on the hotspot function that most laptops come with automatically turns that laptop into contraband. [Parents are encouraged to leverage the *Securly* suite from home to monitor their cadet’s habits and behaviors as well.]

FOR AY 2024-25	Weekends if <u>Qualified</u> by behavior	All the Time if Qualified by behavior and GPA
Flip Phones**	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	E7+
Smart Phones	9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	E7+
Gaming Systems	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade*	N/A
Personal Lap-Top	11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade*	N/A
External Monitors up to 24”	N/A	All the Time unless privilege lost

AY 2025-26 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Only

AY 2026 and Beyond: N/A

\*\*If the family only has a Smart Phone for 8<sup>th</sup> Grader, exceptions are granted for AY 24-25.