



## Use of Electronic Technology on Campus

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The effects of electronic technology (electronic and video games, CD players, head phones, cell phones, computers, mp3 players, Wii, etc.) on the physical and emotional development of children is an ongoing concern. As educators and parents we have an important stake in this concern: the healthy growth and development of the children in our care. The Waldorf curriculum is multi-sensorial by nature and is designed to assist the children in developing healthy sight, hearing, smell, touch and movement, all of which are of critical importance to developing thinking. For that reason, the faculty of the Detroit Waldorf School refrains from exposing the children to electronic technologies in the school.

1. The faculty asks that parents, likewise, eliminate their child (ren's) use of electronic equipment and media (enumerated above) for Grades 4 and below.
2. From grades 5 through 8, the school asks parents to eliminate their child (ren's) use of electronic equipment and media on school nights. This will allow for more time for family interaction, homework, practice time for musical instruments, and space for proper meals and sleep.
3. Students are not allowed to bring or use pagers, cell phones, headphones, CD players, radios, etc. to school or use them when participating in school functions. **Written permission from the school and class teacher is required for student cell phone usage; please contact the office for a form.**
4. Norms for computer use for classroom assignments will be developed for the upper grades (6, 7,8) and will be communicated to parents by their child's class teacher.

As adults, we use our cell phones and similar electronic devices to make our work more convenient and productive. However, we also have become somewhat unconscious about the effect that the use of these devices may have on others. **The faculty requests that you refrain from use of these devices while on the campus.**

### Auditorium

The auditorium is the heart of the school, and the work that the children present on stage is an extension of the pedagogical work in their classrooms. The ringers, camera flashes, video equipment and conversations that accompany the use of these devices are disruptive to the respectful environment that we are attempting to create for the children. Please turn off all electronic devices when entering the auditorium and refrain from entering and leaving the auditorium except at the beginning and the end of the program or during intermissions.

Parents may have questions about the lack of use of amplification systems in the auditorium during student performances. Again, after careful study of the pros and cons of this issue, the faculty has affirmed our pedagogical decision that hearing the authentic human voice and the music that we play is very important to the development of healthy listening and healthy speech in the children. While this may represent an inconvenience at times for the audience, we work hard as a faculty to help the children reach a high level of skill and art in their stage voices. Our auditorium has good acoustical quality, so it is left to us to make ourselves heard to the audience. If a member of your family has a hearing difficulty, we urge you to arrive early and select seats near the front of the auditorium.