

Customizable Device Contract

Things to Keep in Mind...

When your child reaches that important milestone where they get their own personal or school issued computing device, an important step is to talk with your child about expectations for use in your home. Use the suggested guidelines below to help make sure that you and your child are on the same page. Then use the customizable form to outline your agreed-upon expectations.

Where, When, and How Long?

Decide where you're comfortable having your child use the device. Can they only use it in family spaces, like a family room or kitchen? Can they bring it into their bedroom or the bathroom? Can they use it at the dinner table?

Talk about what it means to "balance" time spent with technology, media, and other activities. What are some steps your family can take to balance screen time with face-to-face time? Do you want to make the dinner table a device-free zone, in which no family member (not even the adults) may use a cell phone, tablet, or computer? Do you want to set a curfew for when devices need to be shut off?

Checking In

Explain that as the parent or caregiver, part of your job is to guide them. Identify ways to maintain open, honest communication with your children about their devices.

Discuss how you'll monitor the device. Do you want to check up on your child's activity? If so, how? Will you ask your child to give you access to e-mails, texts, and IMs? Will you review his or her search history (which can be deleted) from time to time?

Talk with your child about the kinds of tools they'll be using and the school accounts they'll have. Ask them to show you the tools they use at school. How do they work? What's so cool about them? How do these tools support their learning?

Privacy Settings

Practice creating a strong password together. Use at least eight characters (mixing letters, numbers, and symbols) and avoid including any private information such as names, addresses, birth dates, etc. Remember to have your child write down usernames and passwords and keep the information stored in a safe place.

Discuss the importance of not sharing passwords with others, and decide whether parents should be an exception to the rule. One idea is to have children create their own passwords but then keep them accessible to parents in a sealed envelope for emergencies.

Review privacy policies and privacy settings

together. Make sure your children understand what private and personal information companies may or may not be collecting. Decide how public or private an audience you all are comfortable with when it comes to sharing and posting.

Care and Maintenance

Talk with your child about caring for their device. The device is valuable, treat it appropriately. The device is for your child's use only, not friends or other students. The device should never be left unattended at school or any other public place. The device should not be used near water, household chemicals, food or drink. When carried outside, it must be protected. The device must be fully charged before it is brought to school every day.

Outline the Responsibility Factor:

Repair: DO NOT TAKE DEVICE TO A RETAIL STORE FOR REPAIR. The device is covered by an FCPS warranty. Be sure your child takes their device to one of the support team members at school. The device will be repaired or your child will be given a replacement device as soon as possible.

Lost/Stolen: If your child's device is stolen you should report it immediately to the police. A technology support team member at your child's school should be notified during the next school day of any lost or stolen devices. Your child will be given a replacement device as soon as possible.

Communicating Responsibly Online

Talk with your child about online communications. What does it mean to be respectful to and respected by others online? What does that look like? Use this as a springboard for a discussion about cyberbullying, privacy, safety and how their online posts can impact their reputation, self-image and future opportunities for employment, college and relationships.

Help your child understand the FCPS Acceptable Use Policy. What are the school's guidelines for appropriate use? How will you enforce similar expectations at home?

Our Contract

This contract outlines my family's expectations for how I use my device at home. We agreed upon the following:

Where, When, and How Long

We talked about what it means to use the device appropriately and respectfully at home. We agree to:

Checking In

We talked about how we, as a family, will stay involved in how the device is used and what it's used for. We agree to:

Privacy Settings

We talked about what kinds of accounts I'll have and how I can best protect my private information. We agree to:

Care and Maintenance

We talked what it means to take good care of my device at home, and what might happen if it's broken, stolen, or lost. We agree to:

Communicating Responsibly Online

We talked about the different ways I might communicate with other people using my device, and what safe, responsible, and respectful communication looks like. We agree to:

X _____

Signed by me

X _____

Signed by my parent or caregiver