

Disconnect from Devices and Connect with Minds.

OUR DIFFERENT APPROACH TO TECH

Current research demonstrates that screen-based technology handicaps a student's academic development in a number of ways, including encouraging scanning over deep reading and thinking, reducing attention spans and increasing competing time wasters. Social media, video games and other, more sinister online content are deliberately designed to be isolating and addictive.

Much research links these to current poor adolescent mental health and social interactions. In addition, AI increases the ease and temptation of cheating which robs students of both honor and important thinking and communication practice.

We do not use screens in the classroom and ask that parents restrict, or better yet, eliminate them at home. We do not allow smart phones or watches to be used on campus for any grade. Students may do some word processing on computers at home in the middle and upper grades, but we do not allow personal computers at school before the senior year.

In Rhetoric, we engage with technology as the powerful tool that it is. We provide laptops for students who choose to study computer science through the AP level and for other tech-based endeavors such as robotics, yearbook and journalism, but we do not allow unrestricted access.

One of the hardest pressures for families to resist is the example of other families who give their children access to smart phones and other connected technology. We hope to build a community of parents who are willing to support each other by creating a smart phone-free norm. Parents who have students who drive and have safety concerns are encouraged to choose one of the many "dumb" phone alternatives. We want parents who are willing to be different because they have different hopes and goals for their children.



SCREEN-BASED TECHNOLOGY

(For adolescents)

- Reduces active attention spans
- Encourages scanning versus deep thinking
- Stimulates comparison over confidence
- Temptations to compromise academic integrity
- Promotes isolation and addictive behavior

