



## SHENANDOAH VALLEY ACADEMY CELL PHONE / DIGITAL SMART DEVICE POLICY



Students, staff, parents, and stakeholders value an environment that is optimal for spiritual, mental, and physical development. An increasing body of research points to the negative effects of social media and smartphone use, especially on young people. The effects include a growing mental health crisis. We must work together to protect students from screen addiction, cyberbullying, pornography, violence, and the promotion of radical ideologies and gender dysphoria. We cannot in good conscience claim to provide an Adventist Christian environment while allowing open access to those who want to destroy young people. With these challenges in mind, SVA followed a process involving parents, administration, faculty, the SVA Student Senate, and the SVA Board of Trustees. The process has led to the following policy:

- The only cell phone/digital smart device allowed on campus the Gabb phone. Gabb phones have no internet browser, no social media apps, no app store, and no games.
- Students are not permitted to have their own computers, televisions, DVD players, iPads or gaming systems (Playstation, Xbox, Nintendos, etc.) or more than one Gabb phone. Please leave these devices at home. Any device with movies on it may be confiscated at the discretion of a dean and/or administrator.
- All Gabb phones are to be registered with the respective dean. Students using an unregistered or additional phone are subject to discipline.
- Gabb phones are not to be seen, heard, or used in the administration building, other class settings, during spiritual programs, or in the cafeteria at any time. Note: Day students who need to use their phone to contact parents may request permission from a staff member and do so in his/her office and in his/her presence.
- Gabb phones are to be in the possession of the dormitory deans each night. On Friday nights, Gabb phones are to be turned in before lights out and will not be returned until after church on Saturday.
- Smartwatches that can connect to wireless broadband communication / LTE directly are not allowed on campus, even if LTE is currently turned off.
- Gabb phone usage may be restricted at times and places not specified here.
- SVA is not responsible for lost or stolen phones/digital smart devices.
- Unacceptable Cell Phone/Digital Smart Device Usage includes, but is not limited to:
  - Using earbuds or other listening devices outside of the dormitories.
  - Gabb phones should not be used to play video content except appropriate content taken using the phone's camera.
  - Files uploaded to the Gabb phone for the purpose of watching movies/shows will be considered a violation of the phone policy regardless of content.
  - If a student is willfully dishonest with his/her Gabb phone or if a student uses his/her Gabb phone inappropriately (including but not limited to inappropriate pictures/video/text messaging/ringtones or any music played outside their dorm room), the student's cell phone will be confiscated, and the matter will be referred to Ad Council.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- The administration reserves the right to search cell phones for harmful or questionable content at any time.

- A student must give any faculty or staff member his or her phone upon request. If a phone is taken, it will be turned over to an administrator or head dean. The student must provide his/her phone passcode to his/her respective head dean or an administrator upon request.

### **EDUCATION**

Shenandoah Valley Academy will seek to educate students regarding the importance of good choices in online content, social media, and entertainment.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Students in violation of SVA's Cell Phone/Digital Device Policy may be subject to any of the following:

- Confiscation of cell phones/devices.
- School disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion.
- Cooperation with local authorities regarding any violation of local, state, or federal laws. SVA will, to the best of its ability, comply with all applicable reporting requirements regarding illegal activity.
- Routine offenses of this policy may result in the following discipline:
  - 1st Offense— Loss of Gabb phone for 24 hours
  - 2nd Offense—Loss of Gabb phone for one week and a Letter of Advice
  - 3rd Offense—Loss of Gabb phone for one month and a Letter of Warning
  - 4th Offense—Loss of Gabb phone for the remainder of the school year.

### **Non-Gabb phones:**

- Any student who is found having a phone, other than a Gabb phone, on campus will serve a two day at-home suspension for the first offense. Any additional offense may result in expulsion or request for withdrawal.
- Parents agree to the following:
  - Understand that if you send your child to SVA with a smart phone you are limiting the ability of the school to ensure a safe, Adventist Christian environment.
  - You have read and understand the Acceptable Use Policy and Cellphone/Digital Smart Device policy