

Cell Phone/Device Contract

The Internet is always changing...which means these rules will change! Technology has given us many opportunities to strengthen relationships and to gain knowledge. Let's have the wisdom to use technology appropriately. And let's remember that relationships are more important than our devices.

Before using my device, I will have all my school work, piano, scripture reading, personal enrichment and chores done for the day. My device will only be used in public areas of the house and will not be used during school time.

I will be intentional. Before I sit in front of a screen—I will ask myself if this is the best way to use my time right now.

I understand that having a device is a privilege, and privileges can be taken away.

I will have my device plugged in by 9:00 each weeknight, 10:30 on Saturday nights, and 12:00 on Friday nights.

My parents will always have access to my password. My device is an open book.

I will not alter my security setting without permission, unless it is to make them stricter due to new privacy policies

I will not download apps, music, games, or programs without permission. I will download music that is uplifting. (Take advantage of the different types of music, don't just listen to what is popular. Classical, Oldies, Spiritual, Musicals)

I will keep my drama out of social media. Everyone doesn't need to know when I have fought with my brother or how unfair I think life is.

I am making a permanent record of my character with my words and photos. I will not send texts/emails/messages that would be considered bullying, harassing, gossiping, offensive, suggestive, or have foul language. I will not use my device to lie or deceive another person. I will treat others as I would like to be treated. I will not delete text messages in order to hide them from my parents. I will unfriend anyone from my account that is posting inappropriately. (I am busy and won't read every message you write or receive, but privacy is not implied. Remember that when you are posting online, you not only represent yourself, you represent our family and our faith.)

Cyber bullying is ALWAYS wrong. If someone is bullying me, I will tell my parents and block the offenders. If I see others being bullied, I will tell my parents and block the offenders, even if it is a friend. If I am bullying someone else, I understand that my parents will punish me as severely as they would want someone who was bullying me to be punished, and my account will be deleted.

I will not use my device to take revealing, suggestive, or embarrassing photos of myself or my friends. Once photos are taken with a device they are forever. Consider what others would think about them...future employers, grandparents, college admissions officer, future spouse, future children!

I will be present during family meal times without my device. I will not use it during family time or when my parents ask me to put it away. If I am in a social situation, surrounded by people or even just one person, I will put my device away! I will look people in the eye and have a real conversation without checking my phone.

I will never share personal information with anyone online. I will not post location statuses, and will not tell people when we leave town.

I will keep my eyes open. I will see the world around me. I will look out the window. I will watch a sunset. I will take quiet time without any media. I will develop my talents and try new things that don't involve a screen in front of my face.

No public social media until age 13. (Facebook, Instagram, anything else that comes up...and only with parent's permission)

Your worth has nothing to do with the number of likes your post got or the number of followers you have. You are so much more than that! No photo, no clever status update, will ever, ever come close to capturing your infinite worth. If you ever doubt your value put your device away, and come and talk to me. I'll remind you how much you are worth. If you see me on my phone too much...tell me! Remind me to be present...you deserve nothing less!

Child _____

Parent _____

Parent _____