



2021 Cell Phone & Technology Policy

In summer 2018 we noticed the decrease in connection and increase in distraction and “outside noise” that cell phones and other devices were causing for our Brave Arts family. To take back a slice of childhood, we began “cell-phone free” Brave Arts. Collecting the devices and storing them safely until the end of the day (or during designated breaks for overnights) gave our Brave Arts kids a screen break and freedom from the pressures and distractions of social media, games, texting, etc. We heard over and over again that by the end of the week they didn’t miss their phone at all and forgot to even use it during breaks!

It is now a Brave Arts tradition!

- No cell phones are allowed out during the day session (9 AM to 3 PM) unless permitted by a counselor for music use. If phones are brought to campus, they should be kept in a bag. All phones may be collected by Brave Arts staff to be stored safely and decrease temptation to check it!
- Overnight participants will have their phones collected and safely stored until designated breaks/permitted times. Any other technology (ie: gaming devices, iPads, laptops, etc) are not encouraged, however if you choose to bring them they must be left in the dorms. Although the dorm building will be locked, Brave Arts is not responsible for loss/theft/damage of any personal property. See overnight information packet for further details!
- Our staff will need to use phones and laptops for teaching, parent/staff communication and emergencies and photos/videos to share with you! However, our goal is to stay off of our devices as much as possible both to keep our attention on our Brave Arts kids and to model “being in the moment.”

We need your support in two ways:

1. Encourage your child to honor this policy, respect that phones are collected and discourage bringing devices. Remind them that you can reach them and they can reach you via a Brave Arts staff member. Sneaking technology is a violation of trust and goes against the values that Brave Arts teaches.
2. Keep contact of Brave Arts staff to urgent communication (ie: change in pick up person, running late, emergencies, etc) during day session hours 9 AM to 3 PM. Every time we respond to a text, call or email we have to step away from time with our Brave Arts kids!

Any communication will be replied to after 3:00 PM if not urgent.

“It only takes 5 days at a summer camp without devices for the markers of empathy among young people to start to go right back up again. We are built to be empathetic creatures, so it just takes a little to restore this balance.”

- Bored and Brilliant