



Student Media Use and Images Policy

Date Originally Adopted: 1/31/2017

Revisions:

Related Documents:

Media Mindfulness for Kona Pacific Families

One of our core values at Kona Pacific is the preservation of a healthy childhood for each child. One of the most powerful ways to support this value is to limit children's exposure to media, including TV, movies, and electronic games.

Recent research has shown that exposure to media entertainment for young children may have a detrimental effect upon their self-image, their ability to concentrate and develop attention span, their relationship skills, values, reading skills, physical skills, energy levels, psychological health, creativity and social behavior. Because we believe that electronic media can have detrimental effects on a child's healthy growth and development and on their ability to succeed at school, we encourage families to incorporate our media-free philosophy into their children's daily lives.

The cultivation of the imaginative power of each individual child is paramount as a foundation for the healthy development of creative and critical thinking in adolescence. A reliance on ready-made pictures reduces a child's ability to visualize both the written word (when reading) and the spoken word (when imaginative pictures are given, stories are told, etc.)

Students accustomed to passively receiving impressions have difficulty making the inner effort necessary to sustain imaginative thought. Electronic media use by children has been shown to affect neurological development, vision tracking, and the ability to focus in school in children exposed to television, videos and computer games, particularly below the age of 9.

We strongly encourage all our families to significantly reduce or eliminate the use of media (including television, videos, video games, computer games, i-pods, CD players, movies, etc.) for their children. We ask for complete elimination of electronic media during the school week.

This policy is designed to support the objectives of Waldorf education, and to be workable in the homes and lives of school families. Parents have consistently found that reducing the influence of media on their family life has encouraged family members to develop a keener interest in one another, enlivened and deepened their communication, and fostered a deeper connection to the world around them.

In addition to limiting or eliminating screen time in any form, we also urge parents to be particularly vigilant about program content. We urge parents to investigate program content for themselves and not rely on the media rating system. Many movies rated PG and PG-13 are not appropriate for young children and contain excessive amounts of violence.

We encourage you to speak with staff or other parents in the school for suggestions, support and resources that you might find helpful on this subject. In addition, we strongly urge all parents to continue to research this critical topic on their own. Some resources include:

Books:

Endangered Minds: Why Our Children Don't Think; Healy, Jane.
The Plug-In Drug and Unplugging the Plug-In Drug; Winn, Marie.
What To Do After You Turn Off the TV; Lappe, Frances Moore.
How Television Poisons Children's Minds; Everett, Miles.
Who's Bringing Them Up? How to Break the TV Habit; Large, Martin.

Websites:

www.whitedot.org
www.tvturnoff.org (Center for Screen-time Awareness)

Video:

Media and Waldorf Education
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge5G_cYpj8g

Media Use and Images at School

Cell phones and personal devices

The use of cell phones for any purpose by students is not permitted on campus between 7:45 a.m. and dismissal time, during school activities, or on school-sponsored trips without a teacher's permission. During school hours, all cell phones must be turned off and stowed away in a backpack or purse. On campus outside of school hours, phones may be used only as telephones and never for Internet access, as cameras, or as gaming or audio devices. Cell phones may not be used by students inside of school buildings.

Personal audio or video devices are not permitted on the Kona Pacific campus, during school activities, or on any school trips without a teacher's permission. When determined by a teacher to be appropriate, such devices may be used at Kona Pacific in some instances for supervised educational purposes.

Media Images

One of the things that makes a Waldorf school special is the attention accorded to creating an environment that is visually pleasing. When a child is surrounded by beauty, beauty is reflected within him or her and encouraged to grow and flourish.

On campus and on school-sponsored field trips, all clothing, hats, backpacks, lunch boxes/baskets and any other accessories must be free of media advertisements or depictions of commercial media productions or characters. In this way, the child's own being can shine, without the distractions and commercial consciousness such logos and images are so apt to bring into the classroom.