



8414 Opossumtown Pike  
Frederick, Maryland 21702  
September 4, 2015

Dear Fourth - Eighth Grade Parents,

Many students are expected to do independent reading during their language arts class or have the opportunity to do silent reading in other classes. In today's high tech society, there are some students who have e-readers that they would like to bring to school to use during their independent reading time.

While allowing new technology such as this in school presents new challenges, we felt that this could be something that we could offer as a "privilege" to our fourth through eighth grade students. Trying to keep up with the exponential growth of technologies, such as an e-reader, that our students are exposed to every day outside of school hours can be challenging. Especially when many of these electronic devices allow students to also access the Internet and email accounts.

Please see the attached agreement with our e-book Reader Policy. Please review it with your student. The policy must be signed by both the students and parents and returned to school before a student can use an e-Reader in class.

We are **certainly not saying that all students** need to have e-Readers. However, for those who do have their favorite books downloaded onto an eReader, we hope that this will be beneficial. The change from print to digital books is certainly ramping up and leaving educators with a lot of unanswered questions about how to implement them in the classroom. The attached policy is our attempt at trying to develop a policy that will help students safely use their e-readers in school.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this new policy.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Smith  
Principal

**St. John's Regional Catholic School  
e-book Reader Policy**

1. I agree to take proper care of my e-book reader at SJRCS.
2. I understand that the purpose of having my e-book reader at school is to read.
3. I am the only person who will use my e-book reader while at school. I will not lend my reader to other students.
4. I will not turn on my e-book reader other than when I have been instructed that there is time for silent reading.
5. My e-book reader can be turned on during:
  - the time period before morning announcements
  - Silent reading time
6. My e-book reader will be turned off during:
  - morning/afternoon announcements
  - class time other than when I have been given permission for silent reading
  - lunch
7. If my e-book reader connects to the Internet, I will disable the service during school hours. While at school, I will not connect to the Internet through a wireless or 3G network. I will not use the Internet to download content to my e-book reader. Nor will I use my e-book reader to browse the Internet and/or connect with others via the Internet. These policies refer to e-readers only. Students cannot use cell phones as e-readers.
8. I understand the consequences of not following the e-book reader guidelines. They are:
  - First violation – SJRCS will contact the student's parent and student e-book reader rights will be suspended for no less than two weeks.
  - Second violation – SJRCS will contact the student's parent and the student will lose e-book reader rights at SJRCS. Rights may be reinstated the following school year.

This policy is an addendum to our school's Acceptable Use Policy and the Archdiocesan Computer Resources Policy. The SJRCS AUP outlines acceptable and non-acceptable use of technology and Internet communications. The Archdiocesan Computer Resources Policy can be found on pages 10-12 of the Parent-Student Handbook.

I am responsible for my e-book. I understand that St. John's Regional Catholic School cannot guarantee the safety or security of my e-book reader. St. John's Regional Catholic School assumes no responsibility for willful, accidental or malicious damages. I agree to these guidelines and understand the consequences of choosing not to follow these guidelines.

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Student Signature

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Date

I am authorizing my child to use an e-book reader during times as outlined above. I understand that St. John's Regional Catholic School cannot guarantee the safety or security of student e-book readers. St. John's Regional Catholic School assumes no responsibility for willful, accidental or malicious damages.

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Parent Signature

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Date