

AWS Electronic Media Agreements*



**Electronic Media includes all digitally delivered content on any device such as computers, cell phones, video game consoles, tablets, radios, and smart watches. Electronic media includes social media, email and other cyber communications.*

“A child’s brain develops rapidly . . . children learn best by interacting with people, not screens.” --American Academy of Pediatrics.

AWS supports a **Slow Tech Introduction** for children as recommended by many media literacy experts. Through discussion with your child’s teacher and within class meetings, parents work toward agreements to support an intentional introduction and use of technology in a developmental timetable. Our Cyber Civics curriculum, starting in 6th grade, guides students' awareness and sense of responsibility. We wish students to recognize the value of electronic media as a useful tool with possibilities for positive impact on society. Until brain growth has reached maturity, parental control of content and use will benefit the overall health of our children and community.

Our stance on media reflects core values of a Waldorf education:

- Commitment to responsible human interactions and engagement in the natural world.
- Protection of childhood stages, the developing senses, and feelings of reverence and wonder.
- Development of capacities for making one’s own inner pictures, self-regulation, and freedom in thinking.
- Refining one’s sense for goodness, beauty, and truth.

A **Slow Tech Introduction** through childhood stages

Preschool through Grade 4: No media exposure is requested to foster healthy sensory development, and freedom of play and expression. We understand that sometimes face-time with distant relatives is beneficial. Any such exposure should be with the participation of a parent.

Grade 5: Carefully-chosen films, reflecting artistry and human values, could be introduced on occasion with parental participation. Weekends only. Emails could be sent to family with parent typing.

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Grade 6: Gradual and moderate introduction may include limited, age-appropriate news, podcasts, and computer use for educational purposes with parental supervision. We do not recommend that children at this age have personal smart-phones. If a child has a phone for special circumstances, we ask for no texting among classmates. A smart-phone on campus must be approved by the Grades Director and should not be used during the school day or school related activities.

Grades 7 & 8: Increased, limited use of technology with parental oversight, along with family and class created agreements. We suggest the following:

- Guided internet use for research projects or access to educational content.
- Age-appropriate movies or educational content limited to weekends only. Know what your children are watching.
- Phones, if needed for individual situations, with a parental control app or without data, and with clear rules. Phones are not used during the school day or at school activities.
- Any video calls, texting, or emails with parental oversight.
- Video games have an impact on attentional capacities. If used, they are best restricted to non-violent, aesthetically pleasing gaming limited to 30 minutes on the weekends.
- Social media is known to impact social-emotional health at this vulnerable age and is not recommended. Carefully oversee and moderate any social media usage.

Have Questions or Need Support?






































Please note: Austin Waldorf School hopes that our continued exploration into the fast changing media landscape will support our families in navigating a challenging terrain.

If you have any questions or need support please contact our Tech Committee:

Carol Toole, Student Support & College Co-chair
Terri Everett, Music & Student Life
Jada D'Angelo, Counseling
Anna Rodriguez, Librarian

Because changes in technology occur so rapidly, AWS technology and media policies will be reviewed at minimum on an annual basis in order for AWS to remain in tune with the times. Recommendations for changes will be presented to the College of Teachers, Pedagogical Circle, and the General School Circle before such changes are implemented and are shared with the greater community.

AWS Slow Tech Guidelines

	 Direct Parental Supervision	 Limited & Age Appropriate	 Monitor student for appropriate use	 Safety & Health Exceptions				
	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade	3 rd Grade	4 th Grade	5 th Grade	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
COMMUNICATION MODE								
Email								
Video Chat								
Text Messaging								
Group Texting & Social Media								
INFORMATION & ENTERTAINMENT								
Movies & Shows								
Web Browsing								
Video Games								
Recorded Music								
Audiobooks/Stories								
News, Podcasts & Radio								
DEVICES								
Smart Devices: Phones, Watches, Tablets, etc.								
Computers								
Gaming Devices & Consoles								

I have read the entire AWS K-8 Electronic Media Agreements document and understand that AWS recommends these Slow Tech Guidelines.

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Student Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Name

Date

Student Name

Student Name

Student Name

High School Student Technology Expectations

Do I need a personal computer (PC) in the AWS high school?

YES! You may bring your own PC OR the high school computer lab has a laptop that will be assigned to you for use on campus during the school day. Speak with the computer lab teacher, high school office, or high school director if you have tech issues or need assistance.

Learning Management: Google Drive and Canvas

Students must use the Canvas learning management system and Google apps including Docs, Slides and Sheets for assignments and projects. Canvas is used by all teachers to share class syllabi, assignments, grades, and for communication between teachers and students/parents.

Email is important!

Students must check email **daily** and respond if appropriate. Teachers, coaches and the high school director will send communications via email. An AWS student email account (Gmail) will be assigned to you when you start school as a new high school student.

Are cell phones allowed?

Phones **may not be used** during the school day. Phones, wireless earbuds, and smart watches/devices are **turned off and put away from the first morning bell until after chores** are completed at the end of the day. Students may use telephones located in each classroom during breaks or with teacher permission during class if urgent.

Screen Time & Social Media

AWS limits the amount of screen time during the school day, and therefore encourages students not to use social media or play electronic games at break times. There are outdoor and indoor activities, clubs, and committees that often meet during lunch times.

Can students print on campus?

Absolutely! There are color and B&W printers in two different locations on the high school campus specifically for student usage. The main printing base for students is the computer lab.

Typing practice is vital!

AWS requires all students in Grades 8 and 9, as well as new high school students to practice typing using their student account at [Typing Quest](#). 25 to 30 words per minute and an accuracy of above 90 percent are expected at the start of 9th grade (or higher grade level as a new student).

Student Login ID is first initial plus last name. For example, John Smith would be 'jsmith'. Everyone has the same initial password: abc123. Please change your password after first login.

I have read the AWS High School Technology Expectations document and will contact the high school office if I have questions or need clarification.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date