



## World Languages Department

### Notification to Parents Regarding Electronic Devices

Dear parents and guardians,

It is the mission of the World Languages Department at Islands High School to ensure that each and every student has an opportunity to learn and acquire the skills necessary to succeed in the world beyond high school. It is for this reason that our department has decided to ban the use and presence of electronic devices in our classrooms for the 2019-2020 school year.

The learning of a foreign language is not an easy task, and it entails mastering all of the skills necessary to speak, understand, read and write in the target language. We are aware that electronic devices can be used to “translate” foreign text or construct a sentence. These translations are not only extremely inaccurate, but they also prevent the student from learning. Each time an electronic device is used, it is a missed opportunity to acquire a very necessary skill.

When a student is given a text to translate in a foreign language, or a sentence to construct, it is done to help the student master a number of necessary skills. Translating foreign text helps the student learn proper sentence formation, reading fluency, reading comprehension, additional vocabulary, and many intricacies of the language that they could not learn if they were limited to a vocabulary list. Constructing a sentence in a foreign language provides the student with the above mentioned skills, in addition to a deeper understanding of grammar and language in general (including their own). The foreign language department needs students to do this task on their own, without the help of an electronic device.

It is for that reason that we decided to ban electronic devices in our classrooms. Each classroom will be equipped with paper dictionaries, which the students will be able to use in order to look up unfamiliar words. Cell phones will be collected as each teacher sees appropriate and returned at the end of class. If a student is found using an electronic device, the teacher reserves the right to confiscate the device and keep it until Friday afternoon, at which time, the student’s parent or guardian will have to come to the school to collect it. These measures are being taken with your students’ best interest in mind and we thank you for your support.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The World Languages Department

Islands High School