



**NEW ENGLAND
ACADEMY OF TORAH**

Technology Policy

The rapid evolution of technology is a reality that carries with it much potential benefit. It also can be very dangerous, and it has proven to be dangerous countless times, in the world-at-large, as well as in our own enclave. The dangers are spiritual, emotional, and physical. NEAT takes this very seriously. This document establishes NEAT's policy regarding technology.

- Every student who has a cell phone, iPhone, android phone, or any other smart phone, must bring it to school and hand it in before davening every day of school. If a student has a second cell phone and brings it to school, it will be confiscated and may not be returned – ever.
- Any electronic device (except cameras) with video capabilities or game capabilities, including but not limited to laptops, iPods, iPads, mp4 players, tablets, any Android or IOS device, may not be used in school. If it is, it will be confiscated and returned at dismissal. Repeated violations may result in extended or permanent confiscation. Laptops, ONLY with permission from the administration, may be brought and handed in to Rabbi Lapin each day, to be used in his office only. Students will get them back at the end of the day.
- Any device with data access (other than an approved phone) that is brought to school will be confiscated and may not be returned, at the discretion of the administration.
- Cameras may only be used with the approval of the classroom teacher. In addition, permission must be received from other students who are subjects of the photographs.
- All videos shown in class must be preapproved before each showing by the administration. This includes videos that have been approved in the past.
- If parents do not want their children to watch videos, even if the administration approves the videos, they should inform the administration in writing.
- Students may only be in the computer lab when supervised by a teacher. The computer lab is a classroom and, as such, the computers should only be used for educational purposes. The lab computers have filtered internet access. Teachers must supervise all computer usage. There will be no access to the internet unless directed by a teacher for specific learning purposes.
- Homework that requires internet access at home may not be assigned. Teachers may assign a research paper, or the like, that requires internet access, as long as supervised time is given in the computer room or on the school's laptops to work on the project. This should be done in conjunction with teaching the students how to correctly and safely conduct internet research. Students are encouraged to begin long-range assignments with enough time to gather other non-internet-based resource materials and to take advantage of any supervised computer lab research time designated by the teacher.

Laptop Policy

The school is fortunate enough to have new Chromebooks for all students. They are connected to a Wi-Fi network for very limited, controlled access. We understand that great responsibility falls on the school to make sure that this potentially useful resource is not misused in a way that is not consistent with the school's hashkafa (Torah outlook), or even, G-d forbid, dangerous. NEAT has the following safeguards in place to protect our students:

- The Wi-Fi network is filtered/blocked. Only whitelisted sites are available.
- Students may not have access to administrator or teacher accounts.
- A tech administrator has control over when any level of access to web surfing is allowed on any student account. The default state of all student accounts is that no access to web browsing is possible. An administrator changes this only when a teacher needs the students to have such access.

In addition, NEAT implements the following policies for Chromebooks:

- NEAT Chromebooks may only be used for educational purposes approved by a teacher or administrator. No games, no shopping, etc.
- If a student discovers a security breach or loophole in the system, they are expected to inform the administration immediately.
- No student may use a Chromebook without express permission from a member of the administration or a teacher. Saying, "I had permission yesterday/last week/every Thursday, etc." is not acceptable. A student needs clear, explicit permission each time. This also applies to all desktop computers on the floor and in the computer lab.
- Chromebooks may not be taken off the NEAT floor without explicit permission from a teacher or administration. The teacher who gives permission accepts responsibility to ensure that it is returned.
- The laptops must be used in a way that the screen is visible to the faculty member.

If a student violates any of the above policies, they face possible loss of the use of computers, detention (early morning, after school, or Sunday), or other disciplinary measures, at the discretion of the administration.

Efficacy of this policy will be reviewed on a regular basis. It may be updated at any time, at the discretion of the administration. If it is found to be insufficient, laptop use may be further limited exclusively to our math app: ALEKS.

We understand that technology is complicated and constantly changing. There are no foolproof solutions. We intend to be vigilant and agile in supporting and adjusting this policy, as necessary, to protect our students. We are open to ideas and suggestions that help us keep our students safe while using current technology.