

Policy Name: Student Media Policy		Policy Number: 518
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LAKESIDE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL STUDENT MEDIA POLICY

Media Policy Commitment:

Lakeside School is dedicated to nurturing the child's capacities for imagination, healthy emotional development, independent thinking and positive action.

In recognizing the harmful effects that media have on the development of these capacities, Lakeside School is committed to supporting the development and maintenance of media-reduced, age-appropriate environments for the children that attend our school.

Underlying this commitment is a firm belief that electronic media affect child development, regardless of the content. The passive condition and the electronic stimulation of these activities cannot be reconciled with the rhythms of nature. Electronic media lacks the human presence so vital to the nourishment of the child, replacing it with electromagnetic forces that inhibit healthy sleeping and eating patterns. Children's needs for creative play and their ability to create images from within is suppressed by the mechanically produced imagery of the television or computer screen.

Experience at Lakeside School shows that individuals who are shielded from media at home are more likely to experience and contribute to positive learning and social interactions.

For the purposes of this policy, media are considered to include:

- Televisions, DVDs, Cinemas
- Computers
- Video and Electronic Games
- iPods, Radios, or other portable music players
- Cell Phones

Note: While music itself is not "media," parental discretion is expected in terms of music **content** and **appropriateness** within the child's daily rhythm.

Media Policy Goals:

Based on this commitment to healthy experience, it is the goal of Lakeside School that all students from Kindergarten through Class 5 be media free.

It is also the goal of Lakeside School that all students in the Upper Classes 6 to 8 are appropriately limited in their exposure to media including television, videos, movies or other electronic media such as games, computers, internet, MSN chat lines and emails during the school week.

Lakeside School fully recognizes that the challenge presented in the course of achieving these goals may be substantial and that it may vary significantly from family to family. The School also recognizes that achieving these goals in a satisfactory way will require an ongoing commitment of time and energy both on the part of the School and on the part of the parents.

With this in mind, Lakeside School is prepared to work actively with parents and guardians to develop practical, collaborative solutions and meaningful, personalized support that will move us steadily closer to realizing a healthy, nurturing environment for our children.

Media Policy Procedures:

Parents will be informed of the details of Lakeside School's Media Policy at the time of registration and will be required to make a commitment to working towards its goals.