PS58 Carroll Kids Afterschool Program

Afterschool Device Use Policy

Our afterschool program values play, creativity, social connection, and academic support. Devices (such as Chromebooks, tablets, or smart watches) can be helpful tools, but their use is carefully guided to ensure safety, balance, and positive experiences for all students.

1. Homework Use

- Students may use Chromebooks or tablets for homework assignments.

- Staff will monitor to ensure devices are used only for homework purposes during this time.

2. Device Time for Play

- For grades 3 and up, each grade group receives **one scheduled Device Time period per week**.

- Approved activities include age-appropriate, educational, or creative games such as **PBS Kids** or **Geometry Dash**.

- Students are **monitored at all times** during Device Time.

- Device use is limited to **30 minutes at a time**. On days where outdoor play is not advisable, staff may extend the time at their discretion. Alternative activities will also be provided.

- Group use of devices is encouraged to support **collaboration and social interaction**.
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- **No social media, texting, or chat features** are allowed

3. Video & Media

- Students are **not permitted on YouTube** except under close adult supervision.

- Use of devices to watch **pre-approved movies or shows** may be allowed occasionally as a group activity.

- All media use will be supervised by staff.

4. Smart Watches & Personal Devices

- **Smart watches must be turned off and stored in backpacks until dismissal.**

- Personal phones or devices are not to be used during program hours.
- If a student uses a smartwatch or personal phone, it will be confiscated and we ask that a parent pick it up at the afterschool desk at the end of the day.

5. Communication with Families

- Students needing to contact a parent or caregiver may use the **school phone at the front desk**.

- Parents may reach their child by calling the **front desk at 718-330-9322 x1001**, and messages will be passed along promptly.

6. Oversight & Flexibility

- Staff monitor all device use for safety and appropriateness.

- Exceptions may be made for special circumstances (e.g., class projects, educational activities).

We know families have different views on devices. This policy is designed to limit device use, ensure safety, and keep afterschool focused on play, learning, and social growth.

Please feel free to add to our approved list of online games and activities:

Educational Games & Learning

- **PBS Kids Games** – safe, curriculum-aligned games in literacy, math, science, and problem-solving. https://pbskids.org/games

- **National Geographic Kids** – puzzles, quizzes, and interactive exploration of animals, geography, and science. https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/

- **Coolmath Games (select titles)** – strategy and logic-based puzzles. https://www.coolmathgames.com/

- **Prodigy Math** – engaging math practice in an adventure game format (free tier available). https://www.prodigygame.com/main-en

- **Kahoot! (self-play mode)** – review games and trivia for general knowledge. https://kahoot.com/blog/2020/02/06/what-is-student-paced-challenge/

Creative Play & Problem-Solving

- **Scratch** (MIT) – beginner-friendly coding platform to make animations, stories, or simple games. https://scratch.mit.edu/

- **Tynker** – coding games and creative programming activities. https://www.tynker.com/

- **Chrome Music Lab** – experiment with sound, rhythm, and music composition. https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/

- **AutoDraw** (by Google) – playful digital drawing tool with AI suggestions. https://www.autodraw.com/

- **Toy Theater** – interactive art, math, and puzzle activities. https://toytheater.com/

Puzzle & Logic-Based

- **Interland (Google's Be Internet Awesome)** – fun digital citizenship and online safety games. https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/interland/

- **Set Game Online** – visual logic and pattern recognition. https://playset.netlify.app/

- **Chess.com (Kid Mode)** – strategy and focus, with computer or kid-safe opponents. https://www.chesskid.com/