

# OCEN's Covenant for Phone-Free Christian Schools

*Regarding Student Cell Phone and Technology Usage*

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After careful consideration and in keeping with our mission, our school covenants with other Christian schools and the larger Christian community to affirm the following:

- **We are entrusted**, as a Christian school, with the education and care of children who are dearly loved and created in God's image.
- **We must guard** against anything in our school that would impede the nurturing of that image in each of our students or cause any of them to stumble in their growth as disciples.
- **We believe** the overwhelming evidence now available shows that students' pervasive use of cell phones and screen technology, both within and outside of school, has brought devastating consequences. Both wisdom and research prove that phone and screen usage have radically affected our students' minds, hearts, and spirits.
- **We know** half-measures attempting to address this situation in schools have proven ineffective. Partial limitation to phone or screen

access during the school day has not been able to root out the problem of addictive and harmful behaviors among many students.

- **We stand fast** on the conviction that our minds are to be transformed by Christ rather than by electronic data points and images.
- **We are called** to lead in developing an effective response to the phone and screen risks that plague our students. The problem and its effects are so enculturated and pervasive that solving it requires a communal approach.

In light of these affirmations and as signatories to this Covenant among other Christian schools and the families and students we serve, our school pledges the following commitments:

1. Our school will adopt a policy of maintaining an environment for students that is completely free from cell phones or other personal internet devices from the start to the end of the school day.
2. Our school will cautiously introduce the use of school-owned technological and internet devices among students when a particular technology is the best method for executing a lesson.
3. Our school will intentionally lead our faculty, families, and students to a greater understanding of the deleterious effects of screen usage

on the spiritual, moral, educational, and social development of our students and community.

*Lord, we ask for your guidance and aid as we make this mutual pledge for the benefit of the children you love. Grant us the ability to properly address the stumbling block of screen usage so that our students may grow in the nurture and admonition you lovingly provide.*