

CBK Cell Phone, Tablet, E-Reader and Laptop Policy

Please remember that cell phones, tablets, and laptops are not allowed on campus, even if they have been "deactivated" or are used for gaming only. This includes any make or model of any of these devices. This policy is in place for the safety of our kids, and we recognize that this may feel counterintuitive to families accustomed to reaching their kids by cell phone, or who read books on devices like Kindles or Nooks. Students will have access and borrowing privileges at the CU Norlin Library, but young adult literature is not available. We recommend you send books along with your kids. Students may be reached by leaving messages with CBK or contacting the Residential Director in the event of an emergency. Further, CBK philosophically is a place where we want our kids to be present in the experience of their courses, making new friends, and working on their socio-emotional health, rather than worrying about their Facebook status, their friends back home, or current news stories. Media devices do not allow for full immersion in CBK programs. Generic mp3 players, or devices with no Internet signal capability like shuffles, nanos (early generation), or the like will be acceptable for kids to listen to music or audiobooks while they are on campus. If you aren't sure, you probably shouldn't bring it.

Cell phones have unfortunately become a sticking point in our programs, as they are no longer just phones, presenting a myriad of media exposure issues that CBK cannot monitor and will not attempt to approve - this is the same rationale for not allowing tablets, e-readers, or laptops. Cell phones have been used to contact people outside the program whom we cannot monitor, including other people currently on campus in other programs or "friends" who may be available locally to "meet up," are used at times or in ways not approved by CBK or have been failed to be returned after phone call periods, have been shared and therefore are being used under other families' calling plans and with their minutes, or are used to take pictures or video that other kids and families have not approved that may be used without permission at a later date, and are further financially worth far too much money for CBK to handle liability in holding these devices for kids, in addition to setting up uncomfortable equity situations for our kids. For these reasons, cell phones may not be brought to campus or checked in with staff. The only exception to this policy is for students who are flying in as unaccompanied minors - these students will check in their cell phone for the duration of the program upon arrival and that cell phone may not be used during the program.

In regard to safety, students are always accompanied by adults who do have cell phones on their persons for immediate use in the event of an emergency. Adults are always immediately available on the residential floor or in the classroom and activity areas. Students are not alone in any situation, other than a bathroom or shower stall (where there is always a "buddy" in immediate proximity in that bathroom facility), or overnight in their locked rooms with a roommate. Further, both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Camp Association recommend that it is less than ideal to have kids calling home in any less than a four-week program due to intensification of homesickness. CBK understands that may not feel realistic when you are trusting us with your kids, so we have scheduled email and phone call times home once per week for any program and ask for your support in these being positive communications with you so that kids can successfully navigate their own independence in completing the program. We will be sending you information with your program welcome on working through homesickness and avoiding setting up your kids to experience any intensified homesickness before they leave and while they are here.

PLEASE DO NOT, under any circumstances, try to locate CBK students or staff through University of Colorado lines. **We will give you a 24-hour emergency number at the Opening Ceremony** - please use this number for emergencies only and not for general program information or to schedule a "drop-off" of forgotten items. We need to keep that phone free for true emergencies. Front desk CU staff at the residential hall will not locate students and are not responsible for messages for CBK. Some time for students to send a brief e-mail or have a quick (usually about 10 minutes so that we can cycle through all kids who want to talk with their families) call home is built into an afternoon or evening period each week (you will receive this schedule at Opening Ceremony). Kids will sign up for these times - they may CHOOSE to not contact you. Please do not call CBK throughout this scheduled time to talk with your kid (if he or she signed up for this time window,

your kid WILL call or email), as this jams up the outgoing system for CBK to reach families if there are issues that arise. Students wishing to email must have their own email account and know the password. We HIGHLY encourage good old letter writing, and kids love to receive these notes from you during their stay here. Keep in mind, your kid will need stamps for this age-old practice!

We assure you, that once upon a time, kids had no cell phones or email addresses and did really very well in overnight programs. In some ways, cell phones have presented us instead with new issues that we have not found to be positive in enabling your kids to be successful in these intensive programs. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call so that we can help you feel comfortable with these requirements. Thanks in advance for your support on this sometimes emotionally difficult policy.