



Kirkbride Digital Learning Camera Policy School Year 2020-2021

The use of a video conferencing platform is our new modality for teaching and learning. With this adaptation, there comes a need for new protocols and policies. We recognize that these new standards of conduct have the potential to invoke concern and/or stress for our families. Kirkbride administrators and staff will do their best to offset these concerns/stressors so that ALL students remain engaged in the learning process and can make meaningful academic gains.

Students must have their cameras on during Zoom sessions with their teachers. Having students visible during sessions will ensure the following success factors are in place:

- Teachers can quickly check for student understanding by utilizing non-verbal signals, such as a thumbs up
- Teachers can prompt students to stay focused, i.e. if a student is being distracted by something in the background, a teacher can engage that student to redirect his/her behavior
- Seeing faces allows for a greater person-to-person connection which encourages community building; one can see emotions and respond accordingly

The above list is not exhaustive. There are many other reasons why having a “camera on” policy will benefit the educational experience of all. Please note that we are aware of the very legitimate concerns for what can be potentially seen in the background while cameras are on and some students’ hesitations about allowing others into their spaces. To diffuse this issue, we strongly suggest students create a virtual background. We are also aware that learning from one’s home brings in added distractions. We ask that each student do his/her best to identify a place in the home free of background noise and any other potential distractors.

We also recognize that virtual supervision cannot be as strong as in-person supervision. However, to ensure teaching and learning success, we still require students to request permission for any time needed away from the computer. If a student needs to use the bathroom, for example, the student should privately message the teacher in the chat box to let him/her know that the camera will be *briefly* off to address an *unavoidable* home need. This procedure should not be used frequently. The expectation is that cameras will be on and students will be engaged with the lesson throughout the entire duration of the Zoom session.

Additionally, there may be times, when appropriate to the instructional activity, the teacher may inform the student that they may turn their camera off for a specific portion of the lesson. The expectation will be that the student will follow the teacher's camera usage instructions, and then turn their camera back on when instructed to do so. If a student's camera is not working properly, they

need to let the teacher know at the beginning of the lesson through the Chat function. The teacher can support the student and family with the procedure to get the Chromebook exchanged.

Connectivity with our students is one of our main drivers of virtual instruction success, and this policy allows our teachers to better connect and understand the needs of our students and as well as ways to assist them. If you have any questions or concerns around this policy, please reach out to the administration.