



### ***Electronic and Digital Books***

Times are changing and one area experiencing significant advancements in technology is how we access reading material. There are too many brand names to list, however some commonly known devices are known as E-Readers, the Noble Nook, KOBO and Kindle. These devices download reading material electronically rather than hardcover or paperbound books everyone is used to reading. With their continued development and growing popularity, it would make little sense to ban them from student use while on campus. In fact, Clearwater High School transferred almost all of their textbooks onto an electronic format instead of purchasing paper copies. Most electronic or digital books can hold several dozen if not hundreds of titles with a carrying weight less than a laptop computer.

However, their purchase, possession and use at school does create some liabilities. Allowing their use on campus will provide a new learning experience for everyone over the next few months. As we encounter challenges and successes, our rules and expectations may change. At the same time, in anticipation of their popularity as gifts over the holiday season, we have brainstormed some FAQ's that will help us to set up a way of work with these devices.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

##### **1) Is my child allowed to use an Electronic Reader at school?**

*Yes, however the school will accept no liability if it is lost, stolen or damaged. Students bringing any personal property to school must accept the risk that it may be lost, stolen or damaged.*

##### **2) My child's device has the ability to access the Internet. Can they "surf" the Net while in school?**

*No. Depending on the connection, the school's firewall or screening programs may allow material that is inappropriate for children to access to be downloaded. This would also invite the use of texting during class and checking E-Mail. While we want to support literacy skills, once hooked up to the Internet, the dangers are countless. Connecting to the Internet without the teacher's permission is expressly forbidden.*

##### **3) My child's phone can download books. Can they use their cell phone as an "E-Reader"?**

*No. Because of the additional capabilities (texting, video and audio taping) and distractions (ringers) of cell phones, their use during the school days remains prohibited.*

##### **4) Can any of my child's textbooks or reading assignments be downloaded?**

Yes, in many cases the publisher produces both paper and electronic copies. However, at this time parents would have to act independently and absorb the cost of obtaining electronic material. We do anticipate that in the near future additional opportunities will be passed on to our students and families regarding electronic textbooks.