



TECHNOLOGY USE ON INTERNATIONAL TRIPS AGREEMENT

Student Name (printed): _____ **Date:** _____

Changes in technology have yielded a remarkable increase in the types and amount of technologies students are bringing on international trips. The Harker School realizes that technology, particularly cell phones, can provide a vital link to parents and can be useful in an emergency. However, cell phones can serve as a distraction and inhibit students from reaching outside their comfort zones and experiencing life in a different country. The Harker School requests that all students and parents participating in international exchanges agree to the following use of technology during their experience. Please check each box acknowledging that you have read and understand the statement.

- My cell phone is permitted on this international trip. I agree to use it as a tool to communicate with my parents and in case of an emergency.
- I will store the phone contact information for trip leaders in my cell phone.
- My cell phone may be used to take photos; however, I understand that pocket cameras are encouraged as an alternative. I will use my phone only for taking pictures and not for other uses.
- Prior to departure, the lead chaperone will establish two 15-minute timeslots each day (taking into account the time zone differences) that I may communicate with my parents by text or phone call.
- If I have a problem or concern, I will first talk with my trip leaders prior to contacting my parents.
- I understand that my phone is my sole responsibility. Searching for lost technology cannot impact or delay the experience for other students. I will make every effort to keep my phone in a safe place.
- I will avoid texting, updating social media, surfing the Web and sending emails to friends, as I want to use this trip as an opportunity to learn and fully absorb the environment and culture that I am visiting.

Student signature: _____ **Date:** _____

- I will only call/text my child at the pre-established times set by the trip leader. If it is imperative that I talk with my child, I will do so at a time that does not interfere with activities.
- I understand that unless it is an emergency, students are to communicate directly with trip leaders and I will make every effort to avoid serving as an intermediary.
- If I have a problem or concern, I will first talk contact the trip leaders prior to contacting my child.
- I understand the risk of having my child bring personal technology on this trip. The Harker School will not be held responsible for personal technology that is lost or damaged during the trip.

While technology provides a certain level of comfort and safety, The Harker School asks that it be used responsibly and minimally. Students are not required to travel with a phone but rather are encouraged to take a break from technology as they participate in this extraordinary international experience.

As a family, we have reviewed the above, and we are committed to this agreement:

Parent 1 signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent 2 signature: _____ **Date:** _____