

Smartphones, smart choice

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In the 21st century, we are living in a technology-dominated world. Smartphones are undeniably one of the most successful inventions. As a digital native, I believe these devices are indispensable as they have become highly connected with our life. However, debates about smartphones have never stopped, especially the argument on whether smartphones should be allowed in schools. In my opinion, it should be a tacit consent that students can use smartphones in schools.

First of all, smartphones act as a lifesaver when we face danger. Nowadays, there may be sudden accidents that happen in schools. With a smartphone, students can directly contact their parents or even police for emergencies and get help from them. Moreover, smartphones ensure that parents and children keep instant contact. If there are special events or classes that students suddenly need or want to attend, they can inform their parents immediately with their smartphones. Therefore, smartphones are essential 'stationery' for students.

Secondly, smartphones help us learn better in class as they provide new ways to engage students in learning. There are lots of educational apps such as Socrative, Quizlet, and Kahoot! available on smartphones which attract students a lot and make them participate more in class. Whenever our teacher tells us that we are going to have a quiz on Kahoot!, my class gets energetic and excited. Educational apps help us revise what the teacher has taught in lessons in a joyful and memorable way. In addition, smartphones provide students a platform to connect with the outside world. When students find difficulties at work, they can easily get access to unlimited information and resources via their smartphones. Consequently, smartphones are great learning partners for students.

Some people may criticise smartphones as they create a form of distraction in class. However, imagine if all the students were self-disciplined on using smartphones in school, would it still carry that much bad impact? The products are never the problems, how the users use them is what truly matters. Smartphones are just an excuse for the students who don't want to pay attention in class. In contrast, the ones who want to gain knowledge will know how to discipline themselves and manage smartphones in the best way to help with their learning. Furthermore, shouldn't we think about how students interact with their smartphones at home? Not allowing them to use phones in school is treating the symptoms but not the root cause. The more we need to do is to let students control themselves on playing phones even when they are at home. I suggest that schools make rules to restrict the usage of smartphones in class. When students get used to not playing on the phone, they will do the same at home. Therefore, prohibition of smartphones in school doesn't make students self-disciplined; instead, schools should grant the access to all and educate learners when necessary.

As what Brian Tracy says, "Discipline is what you must have to resist the lure of excuses." I believe the purpose that smartphones are made was not to destroy our life, but to give us a convenient and better quality of life. Moreover, I have great confidence that all of us have a great passion to gain knowledge and that we all can have great self-discipline. I guess everyone can make the smartest choice. As a secondary school student, I really wish smartphones would become my great helper in school. Therefore, Let's have faith in all students and create a smart learning environment with smartphones!