

MANY PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO USE THEIR TIME AND ARE LOST AND BORED WITHOUT THEIR PHONES. HERE THAT IS NOT THE CASE. HERE WE MUST BE CREATIVE. HERE WE MUST COMMUNICATE FACE TO FACE. HERE WE MUST SEEK FOR THE TRUTHS THAT GOOGLE DOES NOT KNOW.



—Karl Eby, '13

Wyoming Catholic Outdoor Program Assistant Director

A DIFFERENT GREETING

The proof of Wyoming Catholic's no-cell-phone policy's success hits visitors like mountain air the moment they step into the cafeteria and see students rapt in conversation, looking up to greet each other at tables, or when they find them outside, sitting on the lawn chatting or relaxing with a book; or come upon students playing the piano, guitar, or banjo in the student lounge—present to each other and to what they are doing. Wyoming Catholic's campus culture creates a unique setting for students to retreat and hear each other, not to mention the still, small voice of God, instead of the din and distraction they leave behind.



“HOW DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING'S EFFECT ON YOUR LIFE IF YOU'VE NEVER LIVED LIFE WITHOUT IT? WYOMING CATHOLIC GIVES STUDENTS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE WITHOUT TECHNOLOGY THAT IN OUR AGE IS ALMOST INESCAPABLE. DUE TO THIS DISCIPLINE, GRADUATES CAN THEN DISCERN THE GOOD USE OF TECHNOLOGY PROPER TO THEIR LIVES.”

—Olivia Jones, '22



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TECHNOLOGY *at*



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FREEDOM FOR FREEDOM!

No cell phones or televisions on campus; limited Internet access in the dormitories: this technology policy gives students freedom—freedom from a modern tyranny and freedom for the better alternative. Students are free from the ways modern connectivity shapes (and distorts) their habits without their realizing it. They are free from the power of a “device” to rip their attention from what the moment offers—the stream of a personal conversation, fresh insight as they ponder the thought of a great author, the presence of God as they retreat to the quiet of prayer. They are free from the temptation to be “distracted from distraction by distraction.” Students at Wyoming Catholic are also free for a culture of

presence in personal relationship and conversation, presence to the monuments of human intellect that constitute the Great Books, presence to the woodpecker in the Russian olive or the wild wind bending the blue spruces, presence in imagining the falcon in Hopkins’ “The Windhover” or following the urgings of the spirit in contemplative prayer. This is freedom for silence, where the soul meets God in deepest interiority. Instead of making a digital record of a canyon with an iPhone, students have the leisure to remake it in their stories, songs, journals, or prayers. Perhaps it begins to make sense that the great poets and thinkers of the past accomplished what they did without Google and ubiquitous connectivity. “When you are no longer captivated by technology, you find your true and real self. I don’t want to have a Facebook profile define who I am,” says Erin McNeely, ’15.

WHAT DO STUDENTS SAY?

While some students are skeptical of the technology policy coming in, it becomes one of the most valued things about the College as the students discover the freedom it gives. Together with the community it fostered, graduates often rate it as one of the things they miss most about the College.



WITHOUT THE DISTRACTION OF A SCREEN, YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THE ADVENTURE AND SANCTITY OF THE PRESENT MOMENT, GIVING YOUR TIME TO FRIENDS, HOMEWORK, GOING TO MASS, AND PERHAPS SCARIEST OF ALL—RESTING IN SILENCE WITH YOURSELF AND GETTING TO KNOW YOURSELF.

—Emma Roberts, '20

I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO COLLEGE FOR FOUR YEARS TO LEARN COMPUTERS, BUT HOW TO BE WELL-ROUNDED. I WAS STILL ABLE TO PICK UP CODING IN TWO SUMMERS, AND ALL THE SKILLS I NEEDED ONCE I FOUND A COMPANY THAT WAS WILLING TO TEACH ME.



—John Paul Terneus, '21



INSTEAD OF BEING “OUT OF TOUCH” AND UNABLE TO USE THE TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS OF TODAY, QUITE THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE OF US: BY “FASTING” FROM TECHNOLOGY AND IMMERSING OURSELVES IN TRUE AND BEAUTIFUL THINGS, WE ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO USE TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT BEING CONSUMED BY IT.

—Mary Frances Floody, '19