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Subject: 2026–2027 OBHS Bell-to-Bell Internet-Enabled Device Procedures

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope this message finds you well as we prepare for a strong and focused start to the 2026–2027 school year at Old Bridge High School. We are writing to inform you of an important statewide change that all New Jersey public schools, including OBHS (Main Campus and EMGNC), are required to implement beginning this fall.

On January 8, 2026, the Governor signed legislation (P.L.2025, c.195) mandating that every New Jersey school district adopt a bell-to-bell policy prohibiting student use of personal internet-enabled devices during the school day. The New Jersey Department of Education released its official guidance in January 2026, outlining that all students in grades K–12 must keep personal internet-enabled devices turned off and stored for the entire school day to support academic engagement, well-being, and digital safety.

Based on these **statewide requirements and the NJDOE's detailed recommendations**, OBHS will implement the following procedures.

Old Bridge High School 2026–2027 Internet-Enabled Device Policy

1. Personal internet-enabled devices may not be used at any time during the school day, with the exception of lunch. This includes cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, smart glasses, tablets, and any device capable of accessing the internet, consistent with the NJDOE definition.
2. Devices must be turned off and stored in each classroom cell phone holder at the beginning of the period until the end and are not allowed to be taken to the restrooms. Additionally, cell phones must be away during change of class time.
3. District-issued Chromebooks and instructional technology are not affected.

Rationale for Policy Implementation
The NJDOE cites research showing that unrestricted in-school device use leads to: Lower academic performance; Reduced attention and engagement; Increased anxiety and emotional strain; Negative impacts on school climate and peer relationships. Our goal is always to reinforce responsibility and minimize classroom disruption, not to punish.

This policy does not affect your ability to reach your child in an emergency. Contact one of our Main Offices for immediate assistance at (732) 290-3900. Working together, we will ensure that the 2026–2027 school year is one in which every student can learn, grow, and thrive, free from unnecessary digital distractions.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. We look forward to your partnership and continued support.

Warm regards,

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