

## Student Cell Phone Policy

### Purpose:

To maintain a focused and distraction-free learning environment, the use of cell phones and smart devices (watches, ear buds, etc.) during the school day is strictly prohibited.

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### Policy Guidelines

#### 1. Phone Status:

- All student cell phones must be **powered off** (not in silent or airplane mode) **upon entering the school building**.
- Phones must remain **off** for the entire school day, including during class transitions, lunch, and recess.

#### 2. Storage:

- Phones must be **OFF** and stored **securely in their backpack or locker**. They may not be kept in pockets, desks, hood pockets, or on the student's person. If a student does not use a backpack, it must be stored in their locker/cubby (elementary).

#### 3. Smart Watches:

- Smart watches that receive messages, calls, or notifications must also be **off** or set to **airplane mode** to prevent disruptions. Any student interacting multiple times with their smart watch, it will be assumed that it is being used for notifications or texting.

#### 4. Student Communication Needs:

- Students may request permission from a staff member to go to the office to use a school phone at the discretion of the staff.

#### 5. Enforcement:

- If a student is found using any non-school internet-enabled device during school hours:
  - **First offense:** Verbal warning.
  - **Second offense:** Student will be required to leave their device in the Main Office. The student can pick up their device at the end of the school day.
  - **Third/Repeated offenses:** Will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the student code of conduct. Families will be notified and may be required to pick up the device.

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## Addressing Survey Concerns

- **Why the policy?**
  - **To create classroom environments where teachers can teach and students can learn free from distractions caused by phones and watches.**
  - **To reduce the negative impacts for ALL students of inappropriate use of devices at school, such as cyberbullying, exposure to harmful content, and incidents involving cell phones that detract from a healthy school climate; and**
  - **To increase meaningful face-to-face connections between students.**
- Students at the start of the day will be reminded to power off devices during announcements.
- This policy only applies to the school day hours.
- Juniors/Seniors with privileges that leave the campus for lunch can use their phones off school grounds. Upon return to the building, the phone must be turned off.
- In the event of cancellations, schedule changes, emergencies, etc., the District will put out notifications in a timely manner. We recommend you keep your contact information current with the offices.
- If a family needs to get a message to their child (schedule change, etc.), they can call the Main Office at 607-698-4225. Extension 2400 for the High School and 1400 for the Elementary School.
- High school students can receive email from outside the school district to their school email (from their SchoolTool contact list) and have access to their laptops throughout the day. Parents can email their students directly in addition to calling the school when time is of the essence. Calling the main office will be the surest way to contact your student in a timely manner. We recommend you keep your email information current with the offices.
- Every location in the school is equipped with a phone that can dial 911. Students will follow the school's emergency procedures in case of an emergency. The District will communicate with parents through the District's mass notification and communication tools.

**For more information about the impact of cell phones on child development, we recommend you read “*The Anxious Generation*” by Jonathan Haidt. Here are some videos from Jonathan:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn\\_Ha37cNrK&list=PL7R2lAP7KeJorec23YSXGDgFCuAdKPuRR](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tn_Ha37cNrK&list=PL7R2lAP7KeJorec23YSXGDgFCuAdKPuRR)