

# York Central School

## NYS Distraction Free Learning: Personal Electronics Plan

### August 1, 2025

#### Rationale and Purpose

Starting September, the NYS “bell-to-bell” personal electronics policy will be in effect, mandating schools to implement a plan that removes phones and other personal electronic devices from the classroom and other school settings during the instructional day.

An engaged instructional environment and supportive social-emotional learning for all students becomes ever more achievable when students are asked to focus on classroom activities, hold human to human interactions, and uphold the highest expectations of our school. Ultimately, for students, cell phones and personal devices are, more often than not, a barrier to this academic and personal growth.

The goal of administration is to make the school cell phone policy as clear as possible and ***take individual classroom cell phone plans off of the table***. As such, the number one responsibility of the teacher will be to teach. If a teacher sees a phone, they will ask for the phone and turn it into the main office. Student refusal will result in automatic removal to the main office where an administrator will address the situation.

By communicating, implementing, and upholding these expectations around personal electronic use, York MS/HS will not only be compliant with NYS Educational Law, but also promote a safer, healthier, and more rich educational experience for all students.

**As a school district, we know that this plan will require us to work with our teachers, students, and families to problem solve and partner together in providing the highest quality education that we can for our students.**

#### Procedure

Upon entering school, students will turn off any personal electronic devices, place them in their lockers, lock their lockers, and proceed to class. Phones will be expected to be off and away in lockers for the remainder of the day.

Any student who is seen with a phone, whether using it or not, will have it confiscated and it will be counted at the first Offense. Students who fail to comply with the request from any adult to give up their phone are subject to further consequences per the Code of Conduct.

During bathroom breaks, transitions, lunch, and study halls, students will not be permitted to be on their phones. It is the sole responsibility of the student to uphold this expectation, and make decisions concurrent with the rules set forth and communicated to them. Adults who see students using their phones during this time will be expected to uphold the policy in a manner consistent to how they would in the classroom.

#### Communication with Families During School Hours

Since students will not have access to their cell phones, office phones will be utilized for essential communication to home for an urgent need during the school day. This may include materials needed for during or after school, changes in student plans after school, or other urgent messages that arise.

Due to this change in communication style during the school day, the school district and families will have to be cognizant of how their communication may need to structurally shift. For example, daily announcements of extra-curricular changes, bus changes, sport schedule changes, etc. will be communicated in a timely manner to families upon confirmation of the change. Families may need to adjust the day before or morning of procedures to ensure preparation for each school day, and will also need to utilize ParentSquare and email with their student(s) as a new communication system. The district will develop and share a communication “chain of command” for families to utilize when in need of communicating with someone in school.

Below is an outline of the proposed consequences and interventions for each personal electronic violation, 1 and beyond.

<b>Offense #</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
<b>1</b>	Confiscation for phone for remainder of the day paired with email to parent from teacher; referral	Student and parent conversation with Student Services Coordinator regarding plan for cell phone storage
<b>2</b>	Confiscation for phone for remainder of the day with email to parent from teacher; parent retrieval of phone from school; referral	Student and parent conversation with Principal regarding plan for cell phone storage
<b>3</b>	Confiscation for remainder of day with email to parent from teacher, parent retrieval of phone from school, after school detention or Extended Detention; referral	Individualized Electronics Storage Plan developed with student and Principal; plan communicated with parent
<b>4 or more</b>	Confiscation for remainder of day, parent retrieval of phone from school, Level 2 Consequence (Multiple Extended Detention, loss of privilege, etc.); referral	Parent/Student/Admin Conference (teacher included if applicable)

*\*\*Exemptions: Any Exemptions will be approved through an exemption application and committee that is composed of the Superintendent of Schools, Building Principal, other members of the administrative team, and any appropriate MH staff members.*

Attached is an [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for parent/caretaker clarifications.

Please reach out to Charlie Passarell at [cpassarell@yorkcsd.org](mailto:cpassarell@yorkcsd.org) with further questions, clarifications, or any other needed information.