Disconnect to Reconnect

In August of 2026, the Bugonaygeshig School Board, acting with support from the staff at the school, voted to approve a "Disconnect to Reconnect" policy for cell phone use during the school day, similar to most other area schools. The Bugonaygeshig School recognizes cell phones are a powerful tool, and unrestricted access during the school day is linked to increased anxiety, increased bullying, and reduced learning. Our aim is not just to restrict access, but to help our school community "disconnect" so students can "reconnect" with their teachers, peers, and culture without interference from digital distractions. Here are some frequently asked questions:

Question: What is the actual rule about cell phone use at school?

Answer: From first bell to last bell (8:15-3:20) student cell phones are to be turned off and stored out of sight. Students can keep their phones in their possession by storing them in a backpack or locker. The rule is simple: cell phones are not to be used during the school day.

Question: Will my child be able to use their phone in an emergency such as a red lockdown?

Answer: Yes, in the event of a red lockdown or crisis, students need to have access to their phones to contact emergency services and family members.

Question: What happens if a student uses their cell phone during the school day?

Answer: Staff have been trained to use a "three strikes" approach when they see a student using a phone during the school day. When it happens, the staff member will simply ask the student to turn the phone off and put it away. If the phone gets used again, the staff member will ask for the phone and store it on their desk so the student can get it at the end of the period. If the student refuses to stop using or hand over their phone, the staff member will refer the student to the Dean of Students. We aren't aiming to criminalize phone use, but we are aiming to have productive school days.

Question: How can I contact my kid during the school day?

Answer: We are hoping parents and family members won't call or text their child's phone during the school day. Our Receptionist is happy to take phone calls and relay messages to students throughout the school day. If a student needs to call home, we will give them private space in the office areas to use their phone to connect with family.

Question: What about staff? Can they still use their cell phones?

Answer: Good question! Bugonaygeshig staff are expected to stay off their phones during instructional time and times of supervision (recess, lunch, etc). By staying off our phones, we know we can be better educators and sources of support for our students.

Do you have more questions about the cell phone policy? We are happy to talk and share more information, so please call and talk with Dan, Betsy, Linda, or Ryan.