**Sand Springs Elementary Cell Phone and Smartwatch Policy**

Rev. April 6, 2026

**Policy Guidelines**

- Use of personal electronic devices during the school day, including recess and lunchtime, is prohibited.
    - ***Exception:*** Students with an accommodation documented in a plan (IEP, 504, or health plan).
- Devices must be completely powered off and kept in the student's backpack or turned in to the teacher.
- Students may not use personal cell phones or smartwatches while in the school building or during school hours.
- If a student violates this policy, the device may be confiscated. Staff will label and secure the device and turn it in to the office as soon as possible. The device will be returned only after the student has complied with any disciplinary consequence and a parent/guardian has been notified.

**Consequences**

- **1st offense:** Device returned to the student after school with a warning.
- **2nd offense:** Device taken to the office and must be picked up by a parent/guardian. Parent notification will be made by an administrator.
- **3rd offense:** Student may no longer bring an electronic device to school. Device will be held in the office and must be picked up by a parent/guardian. Parent notification will be made by an administrator.

---

**FAQs Regarding Smartwatches and Cell Phones**

**What if my child wears a smartwatch to help with anxiety?**
Please contact your child's teacher or the school administration so we can work together on an alternative plan that does not require a smartwatch during the school day.

**What if I need to reach my child, or my child needs to reach me?**
Students may use the office phone with teacher permission. Parents may call the school office, and we will ensure your child receives the message or is able to return the call if needed.

**Why can't my child wear a smartwatch if it is turned off or on silent?**
It is not possible for teachers to monitor which devices are on, off, or being used appropriately. This creates an unnecessary responsibility for teachers and takes time away from instruction and student supervision.

**What if I need to contact my child before or after school?**
Students may use personal devices before the first bell and after the last bell while outside the school building. During the school day, devices must be stored in the student's backpack or with the teacher.

**What if my child participates in after-school activities and needs a ride home?**
Students participating in after-school activities may use their phone or smartwatch after school hours to contact parents.

**What if there is an emergency, such as a lockdown, and I cannot reach my child?**
Guidance from local law enforcement indicates that students are safer during emergency situations without phones or smartwatches. Lights, sounds, or notifications can draw attention to hiding locations. In addition, direct communication between students and parents during an emergency can interfere with established safety and reunification procedures.
In any emergency, our first priority is student safety. As soon as students are secure, we will communicate with families as quickly as possible.

---