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Subject: State-Mandated Cell Phone Policy

Dear Families,

We hope you are enjoying your summer and looking forward to the start of a successful new school year.

We are writing to inform you about an important update to our school's cell phone policy, in accordance with a new **state-mandated requirement**. **Beginning this school year, students will not be permitted to use cell phones during school hours—including class time, transitions, and lunch.** Phones must be turned off and stored in their backpacks throughout the school day.

This policy is designed to help create a more focused and respectful learning environment. It also aligns with growing research—and direct classroom experience—showing that limiting cell phone use improves academic engagement, reduces distractions, and supports students' overall well-being.

We understand that phones are often used as a tool for staying in contact with family. *If you need to reach your child during the day, please contact the school office. Likewise, students needing to reach a parent or guardian may do so through a staff member or from the front office.*

Disciplinary Measures for Violations:
Students who repeatedly violate the cell phone policy will face official disciplinary consequences, which will **escalate quickly**. When violations continue, **staff will confiscate the phone**, and it will be held by staff **until a parent or guardian is able to retrieve it in person.**

Important Notice:
Please note that **neither the School Board nor any Board employee is responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen personal property**, including cell phones or other devices brought to school, onto school transportation, or to school-sponsored events.

A Sincere Request for Your Help:
We ask for your partnership in making this policy effective. **Please do not call or text your child during the school day.** Even a quick message—though well-intentioned—can result in your child violating the policy and facing consequences. If something is urgent, we are more than willing to help. Just call the front office, and we'll make sure your child gets your message quickly and safely.

Thank you for your support in creating a learning environment that is calm, focused, and free of distractions. We are grateful for your continued partnership.



Mission: To love, educate, and prepare all students for graduation and a successful future.
Vision: Santa Rosa County District Schools provides an environment that fosters each learner's potential, equips students for academic excellence, and promotes lifelong learning.