

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mrs. Stephanie Snyder, Superintendent & Supervisor of Special Services
Mr. Kris Boganski, Principal/Curriculum & 504 Coordinator

908-995-2401
www.hollandschool.org

August 19, 2026

Important Update: Bell-to-Bell Restriction on Personal Internet-Enabled Devices

Dear Parents and Guardians:

At Holland Township School, our primary mission is to foster a safe, engaging, and focused learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. In accordance with a recently enacted [law](#) and the New Jersey Department of Education's [2026 Guidance for Schools on Student Use of Internet-Enabled Devices](#), all school districts are required to adopt policies that prohibit the use of personal internet-enabled devices, from "Bell-to Bell". [Policy and Regulation 5516](#) requires that all personal internet-enabled devices must be turned off and not in use for the duration of the school day; from the first bell to the last bell. Except for circumstances outlined in the law and guidance, personal devices may not be used at any time during the school day, including during lunch or in between classes.

This law was enacted as a public health measure in response to growing concerns regarding the impact of excessive device and social media use on adolescents.

[Research](#) shows that:

- Nearly 95% of high school-aged students use social media, with many reporting frequent or near-constant use.
- Teens may spend up to 7 hours per day on social media, with a portion of that time occurring during the school day
- Students who spend more than three hours per day on social media are at greater risk for anxiety and depression

Reducing access to personal internet-enabled devices during the school day is intended to support student learning, improve focus, and increase opportunities for meaningful, in-person interactions with peers and school staff.

Scope of the Policy

The restriction applies from the school bus ride beginning to start the school day until dismissal, including instructional periods, passing times, lunch breaks, travel on the school bus, and school sponsored after school activities.

- **Included devices:** Smartphones, cell phones, personal tablets, laptops not issued by the school, and internet-connected smartwatches.

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- **Exemptions:** Devices required for documented medical monitoring (such as continuous glucose monitors) or mandated accommodations via an IEP/504 plan are permitted. Approved translation tools authorized by staff are also excluded.

Daily Storage Expectations

To ensure classrooms and common areas remain free from digital distractions, all personal devices must be turned completely off and stored securely.

- Devices must be powered down and stored within the student's backpack in their cubby/locker for the duration of the school day.
- The school assumes no financial responsibility for lost, damaged, or stolen personal electronic devices brought onto campus.

Communicating During the School Day

We understand that families value the ability to reach their children during the day. To protect instructional time while maintaining open lines of communication:

- If you have an urgent message or need to reach your child during school hours, please call the main office at **908-995-2401**, and our staff will immediately relay the information.
- Students who need to contact home during an emergency or illness may use the designated phone in the classroom (with staff permission), the main office or nurse's office.

Partnering for Success

We know that shifting away from personal devices during school hours is a significant adjustment. We appreciate your vital partnership in reinforcing these expectations at home and helping our students rediscover the value of uninterrupted face-to-face interaction and deep academic focus.

If you have specific questions or need to request a formal medical or language accommodation exception, please contact **Stephanie Snyder** by **August 25, 2026**.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Snyder
Superintendent