



September 18, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Due to the persistent misuse, cell phones have become a major nuisance to a positive school culture at EAJ. As a result of the negative impact on learning and the overall school culture, the EAJ staff will enforce the following cell phone policy that will be effective beginning Tuesday, September 19, 2023. This policy is in line with other districts in our league and across Genesee County. It is our hope that this change will result in a safer, more welcoming learning environment for our students.

Per school board policy, students are allowed to bring a cell phone or other electronic communication devices (ECD's) to school and access them before school, after school, during lunch and on transitions. ECD's refers to any electronic communication device and its accessories such as ear buds, air pods, headsets, smart watches, bluetooth speakers, etc.

If a student chooses to bring a cell phone or ECD to school, the ECD must be locked in the student's locker during the school day (7:30 AM to 2:30 PM). The only exceptions to this are those permissible times noted above, in the board policy. Phones and any other ECD's or their accessories (earbuds, ear phones, bluetooth speakers, etc.) are not to be brought into the classroom, for any reason, at any time.

The scenarios below are just a few examples of what is experienced by our students on a daily basis due to improper cell phone usage, and the reason for limiting student access to phones during instructional time:

- *Phones and social media are being used during the day to initiate and prolong student conflict.*
- *Students are recording physical altercations that compromise student safety and privacy.*
- *Phones are being used to coordinate bathroom passes to share/use contraband (Ex - vaping).*
- *Students are using phones to distribute inappropriate content during the school day.*
- *Phones are being used to access apps that promote academic dishonesty. (Ex - Math apps, AI, etc.)*
- *Phones are being used to share assignment and test answers, further promoting academic dishonesty.*
- *Students are disengaged from learning and from each other, further hindering the educational experience and negatively impacting peer relationships and social skills.*

If a phone or ECD is observed in the classroom by the teacher during class time under any circumstances (checking the time, falling out of pocket, etc.), the student is subject to the following consequences:

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| 1st Offense | Warning / private conversation with student at Teacher's discretion. (Teachers Discretion can also include the phone held to the end of the hour, parent phone call, detention, student escort to place the phone in their locker.) |
| 2nd Offense | Phone/ECD is confiscated by the teacher, turned into the office immediately and returned to the student at the end of the day. |

- 3rd Offense** Phone/ECD is confiscated, the phone is taken to the office and must be picked up by the parent or guardian.
- 4th Offense** Phone/ECD is confiscated and the student is suspended pending a parent meeting for repeated misconduct.

If a student refuses to give their phone to the teacher, security or administration will be called to retrieve the phone. If the student again refuses, the student will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.

As a reminder, students are allowed to access their phone between each period, during the five minute passing period, and during lunch. If there is an urgent matter that cannot wait until passing time or lunch, students are asked to come to the office to make the phone call, either on their cell phone or using the school phone line. If a parent or guardian needs to reach students urgently throughout the day, please call the main office line at (810) 591-2370.

We encourage you to talk to your student about the changes in the cell phone policy and continue to have conversations about appropriate and responsible cell phone usage in and outside of school that help create healthy technology habits.

Respectfully,



Mr. Carr
Principal



Mrs. Telder
Assistant Principal