



Pequannock Township High School

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Mr. Richard M. Hayzler, Principal Mrs. Jennifer K. Mildner, Assistant Principal Mr. Brian Silipena, Director of Athletics

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Dear PTHS Families:

As we prepare to welcome students back for the 2026-2027 school year, I want to share an important update regarding the use of personal electronic devices during the school day. For the past two years, PTHS has prohibited the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices during instructional time while allowing students to access them during passing periods and lunch.

This past winter, New Jersey enacted legislation (P.L. 2026, c. 103, New Jersey's Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Legislation) requiring every public school district to adopt a policy that, at a minimum, prohibits the use of personal internet-enabled devices during the entirety of the school day for students in kindergarten through grade twelve. This includes cell phones as well as any internet-enabled devices such as smartwatches, tablets, smart glasses, earbuds with internet connectivity, and similar technologies.

Starting on September 2nd, students must keep their cell phones and other personal electronic communication devices secured in their lockers or backpacks throughout the school day. This expectation is in effect from the opening bell until dismissal. Upon arrival at school, students should secure their cell phones and personal electronic communication devices in their lockers and/or backpacks before the start of their instructional day. Devices may not be carried on a student's person, displayed, or visible at any time during school hours. By removing phones from classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, and other learning spaces during the instructional day, we are creating an environment where students can be fully present and free from the distractions that these devices bring.

We recognize that this represents a change for many families and students. To assist with this transition, we have prepared a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document, specific to PTHS, that accompanies this letter and provides additional details. We are aware that additional questions may come up, so the FAQ document will be updated throughout the school year.

Thank you for your partnership and support as we continue to create the best possible learning environment for every Golden Panther.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back soon.

Sincerely,

Richard M Hayzler
Principal