

Frequently Asked Questions: Personal Wireless Device Policy

The Basics

- **What exactly is the "Bell-to-Bell" rule?** From the moment you walk into the school building until the final dismissal bell rings, personal wireless devices like smartphones, earbuds, and gaming systems must be turned off and put away. The goal is to give everyone a break from screens and focus on learning and hanging out with friends.
- **Where is my phone supposed to go?** Your device needs to be completely powered off and stored out of sight in your backpack or locker for the entire school day.
- **Can I use my phone in the bathroom?** No. To protect student privacy, the use or visible possession of personal devices is strictly prohibited in restrooms, locker rooms, and changing areas at all times.

Emergencies & Staying Connected

- **How do I reach my child if there is a family emergency?** Please call the Front Office directly. School staff are always ready to quickly relay urgent messages to your student. To help us keep classrooms focused, we kindly ask parents to hold off on calling or texting their student's personal phone during school hours.
- **What if there is a sudden change in an after-school schedule?** We know how hectic schedules can get. If an away game is delayed or a club volleyball practice gets moved to a different gym at the last minute, just call the front office. They will make sure your student gets the update before the final bell rings.
- **What happens if there is a school-wide emergency?** Student safety is the number one priority. In the rare event of a campus lockdown or crisis, students will be allowed to use their phones to contact family, but only after all immediate safety directions from staff have been followed.

Technology & Exceptions

- **Are smartwatches allowed?** Smartwatches are allowed strictly for safety and tracking. However, they must be set to "Do Not Disturb" (silenced with no notifications). Using the watch to text, call, or play games is a policy violation.
- **My child needs their phone for a medical reason. What do we do?** Students who use their devices for medical monitoring, like paired continuous glucose monitors, or who have specific Assistive Technology needs in an IEP or 504 Plan, are exempt

from the storage rules. Parents just need to submit the required medical documentation to the administration to get a formal "Device Pass" approved.

After School & Residential Life

- **Can students use phones during after-school clubs or athletics?** Once the final dismissal bell rings, device use during tutoring, athletics, or club meetings is completely up to the supervising coach or advisor. They will let students know the specific rules for their activity.
- **How does this policy work for students living in the dormitories?** Dorms are a student's home away from home. The strict academic rules shift to a structured residential schedule after school. Students will have designated times to decompress, use their phones in common areas, and call family. Devices are put away during mandatory study halls and collected before the digital curfew to ensure everyone gets a good night's sleep.

What Happens If...

- **What happens if a student is caught using their phone during class?** Schools follow a supportive, three-step approach:
 - **First Offense:** A verbal warning. The student must immediately put the device in their backpack or a classroom caddy.
 - **Second Offense:** The teacher will hold the device at their desk for the remainder of the class period, returning it before the bell rings.
 - **Third Offense:** The device is turned into the Front Office, and a parent or guardian will need to come to the school to pick it up.