

CELLULAR PHONES

Cellular phones and telecommunication device ownership by adolescents has proliferated in recent years. To prevent disruption of the learning environment and to prevent using the messaging functions to cheat during exams, or violate the privacy rights of students who are minors, **STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE CELL PHONES AND ANY TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE IN THEIR POSSESSION OR ON THEIR PERSON BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 AM AND 3:15 PM.** Prior to a student entering the building, his or her cell phone must be turned off and secured. Elementary and middle school students must secure cell phones in their book bags or purse. High school students must secure cell phones in their lockers or vehicles. If a student is found in possession of a cell phone between 7:00 AM and 3:15 PM, the phone will be confiscated and the student will be disciplined accordingly. While on school buses, cellular telephones are to be turned off and stored out of sight: in pockets, bags, backpacks, etc. All cellular phones will be confiscated, including phones found in searches of reasonable suspicion. **Under no circumstances should cell phones ever be used inside the school building or anywhere on campus while students have access to the building.** Cheating is not the only problem cell phones present. Students also use them to carry on conversations with persons against the will of their parents, take photos, sometimes of people who don't know their picture is being taken and believe they are alone, in locker room showers or rest rooms. News reports have shown that cellular phones with built-in cameras, as well as other electronic devices with photographing capabilities (camera devices), are being used for unethical and illegal purposes. These purposes have included cheating on tests and taking and distributing unauthorized photographs of other people. When someone takes pictures of others without permission, he/she risks invasion of privacy and harassment lawsuits. The individual also may face criminal prosecution. These devices also can be used to reproduce copyrighted material, so their misuse can lead to penalties under federal copyright laws. To address these concerns, in addition to our existing guidelines on the use of electronic devices on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities, the following guidelines apply to possession and use of cellular devices. Students are to go to the office to make emergency phone calls home. In cases of emergency, parents are asked to call the school office. The school office staff is proficient at relaying messages from parents to students during announcement times only. Emergency phone calls can always be made in the main office during school hours; so cellular phones are not needed during school hours. **No student will be allowed to be in possession of a cellular phone while on campus between the hours of 7:00 AM and 3:15 PM while they have access to phones in the school office. (Note: The use of cell phones is also prohibited while students are being transported to and from school).** Students who willfully violate the provisions of the cell phone policy on the first offense will have their phone confiscated and they will be assigned to after school detention. **ONLY** the parent may retrieve the cellular phone. The after school assignment must be served before the cellular device is returned. After disciplinary consequences have been



Mickey Pringle, Principal

served, **parents must sign a contract when the cell phone is returned to them stating:**

"I am aware of the laws and policies regarding cell phones on school campuses. My child's cell phone will be returned two times and two times only. Any further confiscation of a phone from my child will result in the device being forfeited to the school district until the end of the semester.

On the Third Offense, the phone will be confiscated until the last day of the Semester.

1st Offense Confiscated	1 hour after school detention Cell phone returned after disciplinary consequence is served Contract signed Fee of \$10.00 to retrieve phone
2nd Offense Confiscated	2 hours after school detention Cell phone returned after disciplinary consequence is served Contract signed Fee of \$10.00 to retrieve phone
3rd Offense	Confiscated for the remainder of the semester Fee of \$10.00 to retrieve phone

****Only parent(s) can pay and retrieve phones.**

Students who refuse to turn in the cell phone will receive the following consequences:

1st Offense	2 days OSS
2nd Offense	3 Days OSS
3rd Offense	5 Days OSS
4th Offense	District Referral

