



July 2023

Dear Parents of BCS Lower School Students,

We want to remind you of our cell phone and electronic device policy found in our Lower School Handbook. This policy states:

Cell phones and other electronic communication devices must be powered off and stored in the student's book bag during school hours. The use of these devices is prohibited during school hours, which include dismissal and carpool, after-school care and study hall, and BCS shuttle transportation.

We want to clarify that this policy states and includes the statement "other electronic communication devices". Here are some examples of personal ELECTRONIC DEVICES that are NOT allowed to be used or "powered on" during school hours: Gaming devices, iPods, iPads, tablets, Smartwatches (i.e.: Apple's iWatch, Moto 360, Samsung Gear 2, Gizmos, VTech, watches and all other smartwatch brands with Internet access), MP3 players, Game Boys, Nooks, Kindles, cameras, recorders or other electronic devices. This includes any device that allows for email, messaging, photography, videoing, or texting. (This does not include devices such as cell phones that are used to monitor severe health issues. Medical devices of this nature must be approved by school administrators on a case-by-case basis. This also does not include devices that we will use at school or for remote learning. Rules and regulations will be forthcoming regarding school-issued devices.)

Please note that students may not wear any type of "Smart Watch" even if the cell phone or other device that "powers" the watch is turned off. In the past, we have let these "slide" and allowed students to wear them since they were assumed to be "disabled", but we are no longer able to monitor these devices and will not allow students to wear them to school. (This policy change was implemented during the 2017-2018 school year.)

While we discourage students from bringing any type of cell phone or device to school even in a "powered off" state in their book bag, we understand that there may be a situation that makes it necessary for your child to have a phone or electronic device with them for use after they are off campus. Again, remember that ALL devices must be powered off and kept in book bags during school hours.

Any student who does not follow these guidelines will have the device taken up and sent to the office. School Administration will determine a plan of action for the violation of school policy. A parent must pick up the device from an administrator. Devices will not be returned to students. Please know that this policy is in place to protect our students and provide the very best learning environment for them.

Thank you for your support,
Mrs. Tasha Holliday and Mrs. Jennifer Bandy