



CASE MIDDLE SCHOOL
1237 Washington Street
Watertown, NY
Phone: 315-785-3870
Fax: 315-785-3731

Positive Cell Phone Usage Policy Proposal for Case Middle School 8/24/23

Introduction:

At Case Middle School, we believe in creating a positive and focused learning environment for all our students. With this proposal, we aim to promote a safe, academically enriching, and socially engaging atmosphere by regulating cell phone usage during school hours. Let's work together to build a community where everyone thrives and grows!

Safety:

1. Ensuring Cyber Safety: By limiting cell phone usage, we create a safer space for our students, reducing the potential for cyberbullying and harassment during school hours.
2. Encouraging Responsible Behavior: Restricting cell phones curtails the possibility of coordinating disruptive activities like vaping, drug use, or skipping class, thus fostering a more responsible student body.
3. Enhancing Emergency Preparedness: Minimizing cellular traffic and noise during lockdown situations enables us to maintain effective communication and emergency procedures, ensuring the safety of all students and staff.

Academics:

1. Fostering Laser-Focused Learning: By eliminating distractions from phone notifications, such as social media and games, students can fully immerse themselves in their studies, leading to increased focus and academic performance.
2. Encouraging Academic Integrity: Reduced cell phone access during exams and class time will contribute to a more honest and ethical learning environment.
3. Promoting Success: By addressing cyber harassment and preventing disruptions, we create an environment where students can thrive academically.

Social:

1. Cultivating Meaningful Connections: Unplugging from cell phones during unstructured time encourages students to engage in face-to-face conversations, building stronger interpersonal skills and fostering genuine friendships.
2. Nurturing Positive Mental Health: By limiting exposure to questionable online content, we promote a positive mental well-being among our students, improving attendance, focus, and overall happiness.

Policy:

To implement this positive change, all Case Middle School students will be required to turn off and securely store their phones in their personal lockers at the start of the school day. Phones will remain safely locked until the end of the school day. If a student needs to make a phone call home, they can do so from the main office, ensuring minimal disruption to the learning process. Parents can reach their children by calling the main office for any important messages.

Enforcement:

In the spirit of fostering a positive atmosphere, we will implement the following enforcement measures:

To ensure adherence to this policy, Case Middle School has implemented a progressive discipline plan for violations:

1. First Offense: A gentle reminder and a brief conversation with the student about the importance of the policy and its impact on their learning and well-being. This conversation will also revisit the requirements of the new cell phone policy.
2. Second Offense: A written referral, and the student will bring the phone to the office and pick it up at the end of the day. A discussion will take place about the potential consequences of continued non-compliance. A phone call to the parents will be made to inform them of the infraction.
3. Third Offense: A meeting with the student, and the student will bring the phone to the office and a parent or guardian will have to pick the phone up at the end of the school day. The office may assign additional discipline as necessary pursuant to the Code of Conduct.
4. Fourth Offense: Parents or guardians, and school staff will meet with the student to address the recurring issue. The student will need to continue to turn the cell phone into the main office each day and may pick it up at the end of the day. A progressive discipline approach will be discussed, including further consequences if necessary pursuant to the Code of Conduct
4. Fifth Offense: Implementation of a personalized intervention plan, which may include restricted access to cell phone use or additional educational sessions on responsible technology use. Discipline maybe assessed pursuant to the Code of Conduct.
5. Subsequent Offenses: The student will be prohibited from having their cell phone in school for the following two weeks. Additional discipline may be assessed by the administration.

Conclusion:

By embracing this positive cell phone usage policy, we aim to create a learning environment that prioritizes safety, academics, and social growth. Together, as a united school community, we can achieve an enriching educational experience for all students, empowering them to excel academically, build strong relationships, and thrive in all aspects of their lives.

*** As we begin the school year, our first weeks will include teaching specific behavior and expectations for students. This will include our new cell phone expectations. We do not expect perfect compliance as we move toward this new learning environment. During the first couple of weeks students will be given extra support from teachers, staff and Administration with reminders of expectations. Every morning throughout the school year, teachers will give a reminder to students to store their phone in their locker. This reinforcement time period will set us all up for success!

