



CELL PHONE PLAN



New Protocol:

Starting with the 2022-23 school year, the Middle/High School will no longer allow students to have cell phones, wireless headphones/ear buds, or any smart devices that possess the ability to send or receive text messages, (i.e. smart watches) on their persons for the duration of the school day. If any of these items are brought to school, they must be turned off and in their locker when the first bell rings at 8:03, until the dismissal bell at 3:10.

District Reasoning:

By removing cell phones from the school day, BRCS is committing to a higher level of learning and engagement for all students. These are tenets that are outlined within our school Mission and Strategic Priorities statement, and they serve as the framework for our future success as a district.

By implementing this plan, Bolivar-Richburg is prioritizing the safety and well-being of all of our students and staff, while promoting the best learning environment possible.



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHAT ABOUT EMERGENCIES?

Building safety and security was the foundation this plan was built upon. If your child experiences an immediate emergency, we have network phones in each classroom, along with landlines in all of our offices. In the event of a building crisis such as an active shooter, the school does have a Safety Plan to connect with our community. Also, security and emergency officials have underlined the importance of following existing safety protocols that include keeping phone lines open and accessible.

2. WHAT ABOUT MY CHILD'S MENTAL HEALTH?

BRCS fully understands the severe impact that the pandemic has had on all of our students. I assure you that we have an overwhelmingly dedicated staff of teachers, aides, nurses, counselors, social workers, and psychologists who are professionally trained to assist with our students' needs. As a district, we try and offer our students with numerous interventions and opportunities to help cope with any problems they encounter during the course of their day.

3. WHY CAN'T THEY USE THEM DURING LUNCH?

As part of this plan, we traced back the origins of our current cell phone issues. We found that it began when we allowed students to have a "decompression time" during their lunch period. Students began taking and sending unwanted pictures and photos, cyber bullying increased, and discipline referrals became more consistent. Cell phones were not being returned to lockers after lunch, and teachers started dealing with the in-class problems that we are currently experiencing on a day-to-day basis.

4. WHAT ABOUT OTHER DAILY UPDATES?

Other updates, such as sports practices, games, and cancellations, can be accessed through our school website. For example, if you go to our "Athletics" page on our school website, you can sign up for automatic text and e-mail notifications as soon as a game or practice is canceled or rescheduled. There is also an app you can download to your phone. Students can also call from the Main Office if it's an emergency.



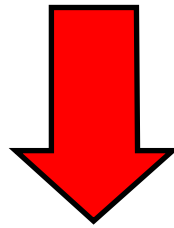
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Discipline Matrix:

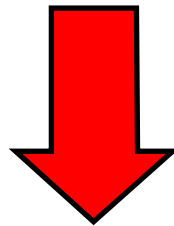
VIOLATION #1

The first violation will result in the cell phone confiscated and taken to the office. The student will be able to pick their cell phone up at the end of the day.



VIOLATION #2

The second violation will result in the cell phone confiscated and taken to the office. The student's parent or guardian will be notified and will need to come to the school and pick up the cell phone.



VIOLATION #3

The third violation will result in the same consequences as Violation #2, along with two nights of afterschool detention for the student.

The district also reserves the right to increase disciplinary actions for repeated violations and/or egregious offenses.