Frequently Asked Questions: Cell Phone Policy at Brandywine High School

1. **Why has the school changed the cell phone policy?**
   The policy has been changed to create a more focused and productive learning environment. Research shows that minimizing cell phone use during class time reduces distractions, improves student engagement, and positively affects academic performance. Beyond the research correlating cell phone use to academic performance, studies also link an increase in cell phone use – especially on social media applications – to a decrease in a student's social and emotional well-being.

2. **What does the new policy entail?**
   Similar to the policies implemented at our sister high schools in the Brandywine School District, the policy requires that all students place their cell phones (and related devices) in designated pocket holders located in the front of each classroom. The cell phone (and related devices) will remain in the pocket for the duration of instructional time (class period).

3. **When are students allowed to use their cell phones?**
   Students can access their devices before/after school, during transitions in the hallways, and during their assigned lunch period.

4. **What if I need to contact my child during the school day?**
   If you need to contact your child during the school day, you should contact Brandywine High School's main office at 302-479-1600. Messages will be relayed by the office to your student. Additionally, students will still be able to access their phones and, in turn, your messages during the aforementioned designated times.

5. **What if my child needs to communicate with me during the school day?**
   We encourage students to communicate with their parents/guardians before or after school hours, or during designated break times. If there is a pressing need for your student to contact you during instructional time, they will be provided access to a school landline in an administrative office.

6. **Can students use their cell phones for educational purposes?**
   No - cell phones, accessories, and related devices cannot be used for educational purposes. As a "one-to-one" school, each student is issued a Chromebook that will serve as the tool utilized for educational purposes.

7. **What are the consequences if a student is caught using their cell phone during instructional time?**
   The 2024-2025 BHS Cell Phone Policy is aligned to the Brandywine School District's Code of Conduct. Students that do not adhere to the building expectation will be addressed using the Student Code of Conduct.

8. **How can parents support this new policy?**
   Parents can support the policy by discussing the importance of minimizing distractions during school hours with their student(s) and encouraging them to adhere to the new expectation. Studies indicate that when parents and guardians continually engage their students in conversations related to cell phones their student's outcomes often improve. Additionally,

parents should allow students to participate and engage in learning in a distraction-free environment by assessing the level of importance in communicating with their students(s) before reaching out to them directly. If an emergency arises, parents are always able to reach students by contacting our Main Office.

9. **Will there be exceptions to the cell phone policy for students with specific needs?**
   Yes, exceptions will be made for students with documented medical or educational needs that require the use of a cell phone. These exceptions will be handled on an individual basis.

10. **Who can I contact if I have additional questions or concerns?**
    If you have additional questions or concerns about the new cell phone policy, please feel free to contact an administrator at Brandywine High School. We are here to assist you and address any inquiries you may have.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we implement this new policy to enhance the educational experience for all students at our school.