



OFF & AWAY AUSTINTOWN FITCH HIGH SCHOOL

DON'T LET YOUR CELL PHONE BE A DISTRACTION!

The Austintown Local Schools Board of Education has established a policy to restrict student cell phone usage during school hours to promote an environment conducive to student engagement with peers, educators, and academic content at Fitch High School. This directive aims to reinforce the institution's commitment to nurturing students' enthusiasm for learning, building a robust knowledge base, and fostering a cohesive school community.

RESEARCH

Extensive research underscores the adverse impacts of student cell phone use on academic performance and mental well-being. Cell phones serve as distractions in classrooms, hindering learning outcomes and diminishing test scores. Moreover, heightened cell phone usage correlates with increased instances of depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges among students.

APPLICABILITY

This policy governs the use of cell phones by students on school premises during official school hours.

USE OF CELL PHONES

Students are prohibited from utilizing cell phones within classroom settings.

EXCEPTION

Notwithstanding the above, students may employ cell phones for purposes outlined in their individualized education program as per Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794. Additionally, students may utilize cell phones to manage or address health-related concerns.

CELL PHONE STORAGE

Students must store their cell phones securely, such as in their lockers, enclosed backpacks, or designated storage, during periods when cell phone usage is proscribed.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

In the event of a policy violation, educators or administrators will implement a series of escalating disciplinary actions:

- Initial verbal warning to the student with directions to store the cell phone as per policy.
- Transfer of the student's cell phone to the school's main office for the remainder of the school day.
- Further disciplinary measures at the discretion of the administration.

BE ENGAGED IN YOUR LEARNING!

