



BLACK RIVER
PUBLIC SCHOOL

August 14, 2024

Dear Black River Families,

We are excited for the return of students and teachers for the beginning of our school year! The summer has been packed with great new campus upgrades, welcoming new faces to our community and a renewed passion for all things Black River.

While all of this adds to the energy we are feeling for this fall, we also wanted to take a moment to be sure that all of our families are aware of a change to our treatment of cell phones here at school.

Along with this letter, we have attached the latest protocols for the student use of cell phones at Black River. The changes reflect the changes in our world with the hope to support our children in understanding appropriate use of these devices as well as when to put them away. For those families who rely on communication with their students for transportation changes or medical reasons etc., these changes will allow for those important communications to continue. For the best use of our instructional time however, you will see some more specific direction for how we must go forward as a school.

The new protocols reflect our community's understanding that our students' time in their classes needs to be uninterrupted by cell phones and their many distractions that hinder learning. We thank the parents, students and teachers who have spent time talking with us about this issue and appreciate everyone's support.

Please take some time to read the new protocols with your children and to discuss the impacts that it may have on them. We look forward to the upcoming school year with great anticipation and excitement!

Sincerely,



Shannon Brunink
Head of School
Black River Public School



Elisabeth Bauman
President, Board of Trustees
Black River Public School

Black River Public School

Cell Phone Protocols for Black River 2024-2025 School Year

Student use of cell phones is prohibited during Black River instructional time. This ban is in effect for all grade levels and all class periods including our College Advisory Period/FLEX class.

Black River faculty members have the authority to allow a student to use their cell phone for emergency purposes or, in necessary situations, for specific and necessary academic reasons. Black River faculty will not require or rely upon students to have their phones in class for the delivery of content or lessons. Students in middle and high school are offered school devices for their class work and these are provided by request at the start of the academic year.

During non-academic times within the school day including lunch or passing time, students who choose to bring a phone to school are required to follow all rules included in the Code of Conduct in the Black River Student Handbook. These rules include but are not limited to school policies on Bullying, Sexual Harassment, or Academic Integrity through phone or technology use. Violations will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion, with potential police involvement.

Per this policy, if a student is using a phone inappropriately or has a phone visible during instructional time without permission, the following consequences will occur:

- First offense - a faculty member shall confiscate the phone and turn it in to the main office where the student may pick it up at the end of the day.
- Second offense - the phone is turned in to the main office and parents are notified. The student may pick it up at the end of the day.
- Third offense - the phone is turned in to the main office and a detention will be assigned.
- Fourth offense - a parent/legal guardian must pick the phone up from the Main Office, and additional consequences will be discussed/assigned to the student.

Cell phones create distractions and problematic issues in an academic setting, but they are helpful to students and families for coordinating transportation as we rely on families for drop off and pick up to school.

If you do not anticipate your child having a need for a phone at school, we encourage families to have their child leave their phone at home.