



PRAHS Students and Parents/Guardians:

The PRAHS Team has been working to help set a positive direction with cell phones or other electronic devices including smart watches, and earbuds/air pods in order to maximize the academic time available for student success. One of our goals at PRAHS is to teach and practice healthy habits with technology, and it is our mission to produce RESPECTFUL and RESPONSIBLE citizens both in and out of school. At this time, we are moving forward with electronic device practices in our classrooms and large group spaces to support our students and their success at PRAHS.

### Why the changes:

- **Relationships** In order to be connected to learning in the classrooms students must be connected to one another and to the instructional staff. Significant research and experience have determined that student access to cell phones distracts from the learning environment and creates a significant barrier to the interactions and connections crucial to rich, relationship-based learning.
- **Focus** Students learn best when they are “present” and engaged in the learning activities and interactions from moment to moment. Research has determined that not only cell phone use but also the proximity of cell phone availability and access for students during class is a distraction from learning.
- **Safety** It is acknowledged that families may choose to have students carry cell phones for a variety of reasons related to safety, however, cell phones as vehicles for social media access and use have proven detrimental to our school community.

### Below are expectations that we are requiring of students under the new electronic device practices at PRAHS:

- **Cell Phones or other electronic devices are to be on silent and not used at any time during any class period and passing time.** During the 50-minute class period, student cell phones are not to be seen at any point. Cell phones are not needed to carry out student practices for success in the classroom. Only items that are needed for the course are allowed in the classroom.
- When a student requests to use the restroom, the student cell phone will be passed and left with the classroom teacher until returning to class.
- Earbuds are not allowed in the classroom.
- Cell Phones or other electronic devices **can** be used in a respectful manner during students scheduled **lunch time**.
- **No Cell Phones or other electronic devices during Study Hall** as this is treated just like any other classroom in which we are taking formal attendance. Study Hall is an academic period that doesn't require a cell phone.
- Students who have a medical or other emergency reason for accessing their phone during the day should discuss an exception with an administrator.
- Important Reminder Using a cell phone to take photographs or record a video at any time on school property is strictly prohibited. This includes taking photographs or video recordings in restrooms, locker rooms, classrooms, etc. Pictures of others that are sent to other students is a form of harassment or bullying towards another. These acts are administered under the harassment and bullying policy.

#### District Mission:

*Preparing Today's Learners for Tomorrow's Challenges*



### **Cell Phone Or Other Electronic Devices School Discipline:**

If a student violates the cell phone or other electronic devices expectations, the teacher, administrator, or school staff shall confiscate the cell phone or other electronic devices and take it to the office; including the following:

**First Violation:** Phone or other electronic devices is taken by staff to the Principal's office. Student conference with the Principal & the device is picked up at the end of the day by the student.

**Second Violation:** Phone or other electronic devices is taken to the Principal's office. Parent or Guardian is required to pick up the phone at the end of the day. Student and parent must meet with the administration to review expectations.

**Third Violation:** Phone or other electronic devices is taken to the office and parents are required to pick up the phone at the end of the day. Going forward students will be required to either leave the phone at home or turn it into the office at the beginning of the day and pick it up at the end of the day. Students caught with a phone at this stage will be assigned consequences and have additional loss of privileges.

*\*\*Phones or other electronic devices brought to the office will be kept in a secure spot until picked up.\*\**

Refusal to turn a cell phone or other electronic devices over to any adult upon request will be considered insubordination. The student could be suspended for insubordination along with being assigned the appropriate communication device offense. Loaned devices will result in an offense being assigned to both students involved.

Again, our goal as an instructional staff is to help create an environment that supports a responsible and respectful environment for all students to promote student success. To do this we are asking that the cell phones are not visually present at any time in the classroom setting unless directed from the classroom teacher or supervisor in the classroom. If you need to reach your child during the day for an emergency, please call the office at 218-237-6400.

Thank you to all students and parents/guardians for your support in the effort to make our schools safer by minimizing the use of cell phones during the academic day.

Sincerely,

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