

MILLER PLACE HIGH SCHOOL

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RE: Revised Cellphone Procedures School-wide in All Classes

Dear High School Parents and Guardians,

As we continue to review and reflect on the best methods to provide an environment conducive to learning and growth, it has become imperative to address the issue of cellphone distractions in our classrooms. Over recent years, the use of cellphones and earbuds has had a negative impact on a focused and engaged learning atmosphere. In response to this concern, we have carefully reviewed our policies and procedures to better manage cellphone-related distractions, academic integrity, and ensure a more effective learning environment that fosters increased levels of communication skills and peer interactions for all students.

Starting on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, the cellphone procedures will be effective in all classes. We used reflective feedback received from social studies teachers and students alike and students were given the time to understand and experience the new procedure last spring to allow us to move forward with a broader implementation. ***At the beginning of each class, students are required to submit their cellphones to a designated receptacle provided in each of the classrooms and remove earbuds from their ears. Phones will be retrieved at the end of each class period.*** Students will have access to their devices before school, during breaks, and after school. In the event of an emergency, students will still be able to access their phones. Our goal is to create an optimal learning environment where all students can thrive academically, socially and are fully engaged in the learning experience.

According to a study published in the Journal of Educational Psychology, students who do not have access to their phones during class perform significantly better on tasks requiring attention and cognitive processing compared to those who do. Additionally, cellphones can also pose a challenge to maintaining academic integrity. With easy access to the internet and communication tools. A study by McCabe and Trevino found that the presence of cellphones increased the likelihood of cheating among students. By collecting phones at the start of class, we reduce this temptation and further foster a culture of honesty and integrity.

We believe that this expanded procedure will significantly reduce individual student distractions, allowing teachers and students to make the most of their time together. We aim to reduce personal interruptions caused by notifications, texting, and other non-educational uses during instructional time. Research from the University of Michigan indicates that excessive cellphone use can hinder social skills development. By limiting phone use, we provide students with more face-to-face opportunities to engage with their peers and build essential communication skills necessary for post-secondary endeavors.

As always, our priority is to create an environment that nurtures academic success and personal growth. We value your partnership in fostering a positive and productive educational experience for our students. Thank you for your cooperation as we work together to uphold the standards of excellence at Miller Place High School.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Slavin
Principal