



Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter summarizes the changes to our school's student cell phone/personal device rules and guidelines for the 2024-2025 school year in order to minimize the impact of cell phones on student behavior, mental health, and academic attainment. Cell phones and personal digital devices are NOT required resources for students at school. However, we recognize that the prevalence of cell phones among students has increased significantly in recent years. In the school environment, cell phones are a distraction.

AWAY FOR THE DAY!

Starting the first day of school from the first class bell to the last class bell, cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away. We believe this guideline will create a more positive learning environment and allow our students to be more engaged in the classroom. Emerging research shows the significant negative impact of cell phone use on mental health.

WHY do we require cell phones to be off and put away during school?

- Relationships. Students' connection to one another and to the instructional staff impacts their ability to learn. Research and experience have made clear 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. Cell phones are a distraction from learning.
- Safety. We acknowledge that students may 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.

HOW do students manage phones?

- Cell phones are required to be off and put away in backpacks/lockers during the school day. Phones are never allowed in bathrooms or locker rooms.
- Earbuds and headphones are to ONLY be used in the classroom, for academic use, with permission from the supervising teacher. No earbud or headphone use in the hallways or cafeteria.
- If parents/guardians need to reach their child during the school day for an emergency, please call the main office. We will ensure students receive messages in a timely manner. For all other non-emergency messages, students may check their phones after school as they leave the building.
- Students who have a medical or other emergency reason for accessing their phone during the day should discuss an exception with an administrator.

IF a student does not meet this expectation, what happens?

- On the first offense, a student will be referred to the office and will pick up their cell phone at the end of the day. Expectations around cell phone use at school will be reinforced in partnership with the parent/guardian.
- If there is a second offense, the student's parent/guardian will be required to pick up the cell phone from the office.

- If there is a third offense, a plan will be made in partnership between the school and the family to either store the cell phone in the office each day or to leave it at home.

Please review this letter with your child prior to the start of school. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in ensuring a safe and healthy learning environment for your child. If you have any questions regarding our cell phone guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact your building principal.

Sincerely,

Lakeville Middle School Principals

Dr. Alexander, MMS Principal

Mr. Bakke, CMS Principal

Mrs. McDermott, KTMS Principal