

Dell Rapids School District Cell Phone Policy

In this section, “personal technology devices” refers to smartphones, headphones, earbuds, gaming devices, smartwatches, and other connected devices.

At Dell Rapids, we believe that limiting device use during school hours is essential—not as a form of punishment, but to minimize distractions and create an environment where students can focus, engage fully in learning, and build meaningful relationships with their peers and teachers. By reducing device use, we aim to provide the best possible opportunities for our students to thrive academically, socially and to foster positive mental health. This policy is intended solely to support a positive learning environment and promote students’ focus, safety, and well-being.

Elementary and Middle School

- **Device Restriction:** Personal technology devices (including smartphones, headphones, earbuds, gaming devices, and smartwatches) **are not permitted** during school hours.
- **Encouragement:** Students should leave devices at home.
- **On-campus Rules:** If a device is brought to school, it must be **turned off** and stored in the student’s locker.

High School

- **Limited Usage:** Students may use personal technology devices (including headphones, earbuds, gaming devices, and smartwatches) **only before and after school and during lunchtime.***
 - **Exceptions may be granted upon provision of written documentation under an IEP, 504, or medically directed by a physician*
 - **Storage Requirement:** At all other times, devices should be **turned off** and stored in backpacks or lockers.
- **Enforcement and Consequences:**
 - **First Violation:** The device will be confiscated and kept on the teacher’s desk until the end of the period.
 - **Second Violation:** The device will be taken to the administrative office and returned to the student at the end of the day.
 - **Third and Subsequent Violations:** The device will be held in the main office and can only be picked up by the student’s parent or guardian (contacts listed in Infinite Campus). Parents are encouraged to review this policy with their students to help avoid disruptions. Devices will be labeled and stored securely until retrieved.

Repeated non-compliance may result in further disciplinary actions in line with school policies on insubordination.

Misuse of Recording Devices

Any use of cameras, camera phones, or recording devices in locker rooms, restrooms, or for inappropriate purposes on school property, at events, or in school vehicles—including but not limited to depictions of nudity, graphic content, taking of unwanted photos, or sexual innuendos—will be subject to disciplinary action. Consequences for violations will follow the district’s disciplinary procedures, with possible referral to law enforcement depending on severity. Thank you for supporting our efforts to create a focused and positive learning environment.