

Personal Electronic Devices

Guidelines for Use in Grades 6-8



To promote the best possible learning and social environment in Belton ISD's classrooms and schools, student access and use of personal electronic devices will be limited during the school day.

EXPECTATIONS FOR GRADES 6-8:

Personal electronic devices must be silenced or turned off, put away, and not in use during the instructional class period. Middle school students will be given an opportunity to earn cell phone privileges in the hallways during transition and during lunch at the campus administration's discretion. The reward will be connected to campus expectations around Safe, Respectful, and Responsible.

DEFINITIONS:

- **personal electronic devices** - cell phones, smart watches, headphones, and other personal devices used to communicate electronically
- **put away** - out of sight and not in use; typically inside a backpack, purse, or the designated classroom storage area as determined by the Teacher's expectations in each instructional space.
- **not in use** - no interaction with the device
- **instructional class period** - the time from the tardy bell to the dismissal bell for a class period and does not include lunch, passing periods, and off periods.
- **surrender phone** - students will report to the designated location before the beginning of school and turn in their phone which will be locked away and can be picked up at or after the dismissal bell rings at the conclusion of the school day. If the referral for the violation comes in at the end of the day, the surrender may not begin until the subsequent day that the AP has had an opportunity to notify parents and give instructions to the student.

6 - 8 Area of Directed Use	Appropriate Use
Before / After School	Yes
In Classroom/ Advisory Period	No
In Hallways During Transition	Earned privilege
In Restrooms / Locker Rooms	No
In the Cafeteria During Assigned Lunch	Earned privilege
Bus	Yes

CONSEQUENCES:

Students who do not comply with these guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action according to the following chart:

Offense	Progression of Consequences (start over each school year)
1st Offense	Teacher reminder. Parent Contact.
2nd Offense	Student referred to Admin. Lunch detention for 1 day. Parent contact.
3rd Offense	Student referred to Admin. Phone surrendered to the Admin office/designated location for 3 days. 3 days lunch detention. Parent contact.
4th Offense	Student referred to Admin. Phone surrendered to the Admin office/designated location for 5 days. 1 day ISS. Parent contact.
5th Offense	Student referred to Admin. Phone surrendered to the Admin office/designated location for 10 days. 2 days ISS. Parent contact.
Subsequent	Student will no longer be allowed to bring their devices to school for the remainder of the school year. Failure to adhere could result in a DAEP Placement.

Students who refuse to put their personal electronic devices away or surrender them upon request will be held to consequences for Disregard for Authority, as defined by the Student Code of Conduct, for failure to comply with directives given by school personnel. (p.9) and will receive additional disciplinary action. BISD is not responsible for lost or damaged personal electronic devices brought to school.

EXCEPTIONS:

- **Emergencies will be determined by the supervising adult.** Once the supervising adult determines the situation is safe, students and staff can use their personal electronic communication devices to contact family members as necessary.
- Students may use their personal electronic communication devices for medical or academic purposes as outlined in their Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

How do I contact my child during the day if they do not have their cell phone?

If there is an emergency that requires immediate communication with your child, you can call the main campus number for assistance.