

CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONICS EXPECTATIONS

We know that many students have cell phones and personal electronics (such as smart watches) for safety purposes and to maintain communication with families, however we are not allowing these devices to be used in school between the hours of 9:30-4:00 pm.

Here are our expectations:

- Personal cell phones and electronics (including smart watches and earbuds) are not allowed to be used during the academic day (9:30-4:00) at Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy.
- It is strongly suggested that devices should remain at home or turned off and in lockers. Teachers will have a location to hold personal electronics in their classroom if families or students prefer, however Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices brought onto school grounds or the bus.
- Students who need to be in contact with their family during the academic day are to ask permission from their homeroom teacher to use one of our school phones. Parents are welcome and encouraged to contact our main office if there is a message that needs to be relayed.

First Infraction:

The device will be given to the homeroom teacher and the student will pick it up at the end of the school day.

Second Infraction:

The device will be brought to the office and a parent/guardian must pick up the device. Additional consequences may be assigned.

Third Infraction:

The device will be brought to the office and a parent/guardian must pick up the device. Additional consequences may be assigned.

Fourth Infraction:

Electronics plan created. Device may be held by administration during academic days or not allowed on site. Parents/Guardians devise a plan together with school administration.

Extenuating Circumstances

Students who use a cell phone or other personal electronic device to monitor a medical condition (i.e. diabetes, epilepsy) may have their device with them at all times but must adhere to all other expectations of the personal electronics policy. Please contact school administration if there is an essential need for a phone for approval. In the case of medical necessity or emergency, a student should have a health plan or prior approval.

(continued)

Why don't we allow cell phones or personal electronics during the school day?

- **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 or smart watches for a variety of reasons related to safety, however, these devices as vehicles for communication, social media, and gaming access and use have proven detrimental to our school community.

We are asking you to not only review these expectations but also to help us by not texting or contacting your student during the school day. In the event of an urgent need or emergency, please call the main office, 651-744-4770 and we will get a message to your student as soon as possible.