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**Parent Communication
WCSD Middle Schools SY26
Cell Phone Policy**

Important Update: Continuation and Strengthening of Smartwatch and Cell Phone Policy

Dear Walton County Middle School Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. We are writing to share an important update regarding the use of smartwatches, smart glasses, and cell phones at school. This update is a continuation of our current policy and reinforces our ongoing efforts to maintain a focused and productive learning environment. It also aligns with new state legislation—**Georgia House Bill 479**—which mandates that personal electronic devices be kept out of sight and not interfere with classroom instruction.

Beginning in the **2025–2026 school year**, Walton County Middle Schools will strengthen enforcement of the existing policy by requiring all students **to store their cell phones, smartwatches, smart glasses, and similar devices in a secure, designated locker during school hours.**

Key Points of the Policy:

- **Smartwatches, smart glasses, cell phones, etc., must be stored in a designated locker upon arrival at school** and remain there throughout the school day, including during class periods.
- **Lockers will be safe and secure**, and students will have access at the beginning and end of each school day.
- **Devices are not permitted in classrooms** at any time in an effort to help create a distraction-free learning environment.
- **In case of an emergency or if a student needs to contact home, communication can be facilitated through the school office.**

We understand the importance of staying connected, and we appreciate your support in continuing to uphold and strengthen this policy for the benefit of all students.

If you have any questions or concerns about the policy or the new legislation, please don't hesitate to contact your school's administration.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education.