



IROQUOIS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

High School

Christopher J. Ginestre, Ed.D.

Principal

PO Box 32, 2111 Girdle Rd.

Elma, New York 14059

716-652-3000 ext. 7001

July 22, 2025

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

At the start of the 2025-2026 school year, Iroquois High School along with the rest of the District, will be implementing the new distraction-free, “bell-to-bell” policy regarding student cell phones, smart watches and other internet-enabled devices use during the school day. Under this policy, students will not be permitted to use or display cell phones or internet-enabled devices from 7:39 a.m. to 2:36 p.m. Our expectation is that all cell phones, smart watches or other personal internet-enabled devices including, but not limited to smart watches, remain in their lockers during the entirety of the school day. This aligns with New York State Education Department regulations, our District’s Board of Education policy, and the school’s Code of Conduct. The change also reflects our commitment to maintaining a focused, respectful, and productive learning environment.

We recognize the importance of communication between students and families. Should a student need to contact home during the school day, they may do so through the Main Office. Likewise, any messages from parents or guardians should be communicated directly through the High School Main Office, and we will ensure they are delivered promptly.

We have included a list of FAQs and important phone numbers to assist with this process as well. We appreciate your cooperation and support as we take this important step to enhance student engagement, academic success, and student wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Ginestre, Ed.D.

Contact Information

IHS Main Office (General information)	Mrs. LoDico	716-652-3000 ext. 7001
		716-652-3000 ext. 7501
IHS Principal & Assistant Principals	Dr. Ginestre	716-652-3000 ext. 7001
	Mr. Beetow (A-L)	716-652-3000 ext. 7501
	Dr. Langheier (M-Z)	716-652-3000 ext. 7001
IHS Attendance	Mrs. Healy	716-652-3000 ext. 7880
School Nurse	Mrs. Brooks	716-652-3000 ext. 7600
Student Support Counselors & Social Workers	Mrs. Lewandowski (A-G)	716-652-3000 ext. 7873
	Mrs. Ford (H-O)	716-652-3000 ext. 7871
	Ms. John (P-Z)	716-652-3000 ext. 7870
	Mrs. Lindenau	716-652-3000 ext. 7874
	Mrs. Wojda	716-652-3000 ext. 7015
Athletics	Mrs. Vetter	716-652-3000 ext. 7881

Cell Phone, Smart Watches and other Internet-Enabled Device FAQs

1. How do I know my child is safe in a school emergency?

Your child's safety and wellbeing will always be our top priority. In the event of a school emergency, information will be shared by building or District official as soon as possible. As part of our routine drills, we do not want individuals to use personal phones to maintain effective, streamlined communication from officials. The District and building administration will continue to work with our School Resource Officers and local officials as needed.

2. What if I need to notify my child about pick-up or a change to the afterschool plans for our family?

We will relay messages to your child. Please call the Iroquois High School Main Office at 716-652-3000, ext. 7501 or ext. 7001. Should you get the voicemail, please know messages are checked and will be shared with your child.

3. What if my child left something important at home?

You are welcome to drop off important items at the High School. Please clearly label the items with your child's full name and notify the front desk so we can call your child at the next bell. If your child realizes they have forgotten something, they are welcome to use the phone in the Main Office to contact you.

4. What if we have a family, medical, or work emergency? How can I contact my child?

For any emergency, please call the Iroquois High School Main Office at 716-652-3000, ext. 7501 or ext. 7001. Depending on the circumstances, we will discreetly inform them with the support of the school counselors or social workers as needed.

5. What if my child is feeling sick or unwell?

Any student not feeling well should see the school nurse, who can directly support and assist your child. The school nurse will continue to contact you.

6. How will I know if my child's after school activities have changed?

If there is a change to a specific activity, coaches and advisors will communicate through the school PA during the school day and through communication tools such as ParentSquare. Also, students will be allowed to call home from the Main Office as needed to alert a family member of important changes. Any important school closures will continue to be shared through the Connect-Ed messages by District Office.

7. What if I need to personally speak with my child before the end of the school day (2:36)?

Please call the Iroquois High School Main Office at 716-652-3000, ext. 7501 or ext. 7001 and inform the staff member you need to speak with your child directly. If it can wait for a time that does not disrupt their learning, please note that, and the staff will call down your child at a better time during the school day.

8. *Can my child use their cell phone during lunch or study hall?*

No. Cell phones, smart watches and internet-enabled devices cannot be used from “bell to bell,” including during lunches and study halls. We hope this will encourage positive peer interactions and a focus on academics.

9. *My child goes to an off-site location. Can cell phones, smart watches, and other internet-enabled devices be used at these locations?*

While being transported, students may use their cell phones, smart watches, and other internet-enabled devices. Please watch for information from your child’s specific program such as Ormsby or Harkness for their procedures.

10. *What if my child has a cell phone that does not connect to the internet, or only wants to use it for music or photos?*

To ensure consistency and minimize distractions and disruptions, our building procedure is for all cell phones, smart watches, or other internet-enabled devices to stay in lockers throughout the school day.

11. *Can my child use their cell phone on the school bus?*

Yes. School transportation is not part of the “bell to bell” school day.

12. *Can my child use their cell phone during a field trip?*

Administrators and teachers will determine if or when cell phones can be used based on educational needs and maintaining communication throughout any field trip experience.

13. *Can my child leave their cell phone in their pocket during the day?*

Our expectation is that students leave cell phones, smart watches, or other internet-enabled devices in their lockers throughout the school day to avoid distractions, disruptions, and conflicts. Our aim is to focus on a positive learning experience.

13. *What if my child is feeling anxious without their cell phone on them?*

We recognize that this is a change for many students and families. We ask that you begin having conversations and practice taking space from the device in advance to school starting. Our school counselors and social workers are available to support any child or family seeking help and resources during this transition period.

14. *What happens if my child does use their phone during the school day?*

At the start of the school year, we will review our expectations with all students at our grade-level meetings at the start of the school year. There will also be signs posted throughout the school building. If a student uses a device during the school day:

- They'll receive a warning.
- Continued use may result in the device being brought to the Main Office by a teacher or surrendered by the student.
- The student will meet with an administrator, who will contact you.
- Repeated violations may lead to progressive disciplinary actions, including detention or a required parent meeting. In some cases, a parent may be asked to retrieve the device from school.

15. *What if my child's phone is taken from their locker?*

We strongly encourage all students to lock their lockers and not share their combinations to ensure privacy and security. We will use our school cameras and follow up accordingly if an incident is reported.

16. *What if my question was not answered from this list?*

Please contact the Iroquois High School main office at 716-652-3000 ext. 7001 with any additional questions.

Overall, we believe this new procedure will help create a more focused and supportive learning environment for all students. While we understand it's a shift from past routines, we're confident it will reduce distractions and encourage more meaningful interactions throughout the school day. Our staff is here to support students and families as we make this transition together. With cooperation and understanding, we're looking forward to a school year that's calm, connected, and centered on learning.