



Cell Phone Usage Policy

2025-2026

Missouri Senate Bill 68 now requires all public schools to restrict student use of personal communication devices — including cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and tablets—during the school day. This new law applies to all K–12 students and includes time spent in class, hallways, the cafeteria, and study halls.

We understand that phones and devices are a big part of daily life. Many families rely on them to stay connected. But this law reflects a statewide push to reduce distractions and help students focus, engage more deeply in class, and improve in-person communication.

Here's how it will work at HMC-1:

- **Elementary School:** Students should not bring devices to school. If they do, they must stay off and out of sight all day.
- **Middle School & Real-World Learning Center:** Students will secure their devices in Yondr pouches from arrival through dismissal.
- **High School:** Devices must be put away during the entire school day (in a backpack, purse, or pocket).

This law does not apply to assistive medical devices.

What Happens if a Student Doesn't Follow the Policy?

Students who use devices when they're not supposed to will face consequences as outlined in **HMC-1 Board Policy JGR-1**. These may include:

- Verbal reminders
- Parent contact
- Confiscation of the device
- In-school suspension for repeated or serious violations

Students who refuse to turn over a device when asked will face additional disciplinary action.

Staying in Touch During the Day

If you need to reach your student during the school day, please get in touch with the school office. The school will make sure the message is delivered. If your child needs to contact you, they may request to use a school phone.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we follow this new state mandate.