



# Student Cell Phone Policy

**STUDENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO LEAVE ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT HOME.**

**GRDMS/RCPS is not liable for any lost, damaged, or stolen personal electronic devices.**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES (i.e. - CELL PHONES, EARBUDS, HEADPHONES, SMART WATCHES, ETC.) ARE NOT TO BE "ON", USED, NOR DISPLAYED DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME.

HB 340 The current RCPS Board Policy by way of JCDA-E(1) Student Code of Conduct states, in part, "A student shall not use or otherwise operate a cell phone, tablet, or similar electronic communication device during the school day without the approval of the building administration and/or classroom teacher. Unauthorized use of electronic devices will result in confiscation and electronic devices may be redeemed by student's parent/guardian in the front office. The school system accepts no liability for confiscated electronic devices."

To ensure a safe and productive environment in each class in accordance with Georgia's Distraction-Free Education Act (HB 340), we have modified our school-wide cell phone policy in accordance with state law. Students have the option to: 1) leave all cell phones/all electronic devices at home or 2) upon entering the school building, students are required to adhere to this state law. This is to ensure the instructional day remains focused and free from distractions, in as outline in HB340. We are requesting parental support in adherence to this state law so that every student can have the best possible learning experience at all RCPS schools.

Please note the following cell phone policy expectations:

1. In accordance with Georgia House Bill 340, students are not permitted to use personal electronic devices at any time during the instructional school day (bell to bell). This includes all periods of instruction, transitions, and non-instructional time during the school day. The use of personal devices is strictly prohibited.
2. **Students are strongly encouraged to leave all personal electronic devices at home.**
3. If students choose to bring personal electronic devices to school, all personal electronic devices are required to be turned off and placed all in the Yondr pouches upon arrival.
4. Students will place personal electronic devices in their assigned lockable Yondr pouch. The Yondr pouch will be locked by the teacher/staff member.
5. Students will be allowed to keep the Yondr pouch/contents of the pouch on their person throughout the school day.
6. At the end of the instructional day, pouches will be unlocked by a teacher/staff member, and students will return their Yondr pouch to the teacher.
7. Yondr pouches may not be taken home and must be stored at school.
8. Students may earn PBIS points for compliance.
9. If/when the student needs to use earbuds/headphones for an instructional reason, these will be provided by the school.
10. Students are prohibited from tampering with and/or damaging the Yondr pouches. This is a violation of the RCPS Code of Conduct. If students damage or lose the Yondr pouch, a fee will be added to students' account and discipline consequence(s) assigned in accordance with the RCPS Code of Conduct.
11. If a student violates the RCPS Code of Conduct, consequences may be assigned, including the following:
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – Confiscation of device/item, parent contact, warning, administrative conference
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – Confiscation of device/item, ISS 1-5 days, loss of privileges, mandatory parent conference, and item must be retrieved by parent/guardian.
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – Confiscation of device/item, OSS 1-5 days, loss of privileges.
  - **Additional Offenses** – Students who do not adhere to these expectations will be subject to other disciplinary actions, including but not limited to ISS/OSS.

**Please note:**

- Students with documented medical needs or disabilities that require access to a device during the school day may be eligible for accommodations. Parents/guardians must contact GRDMS to discuss individual needs and arrangements.
- **The school system accepts no liability for confiscated electronic devices. The student assumes all risks in bringing cell phones or other personal electronic devices onto school property or to school related functions.**
- Students are required to hand over the personal electronic devices and all of their individual parts, including but not limited to the charger to a teacher, administrator, or other school staff upon request.

'Distraction-free education' means a learning environment where access to personal electronic devices is restricted to minimize distractions, improve academic outcomes, and increase meaningful interactions and focused learning experiences.

Bell-to-bell' means the period beginning with the first bell signaling the start of instructional time and ending with the final bell signaling the conclusion of the school day and shall include all scheduled instructional time, breaks, transitions, assemblies, and other school related activities occurring between the start and end of the school day.

'Personal electronic device' means any portable electronic device capable of transmitting, receiving, or accessing communications, data, or media. Such term includes, but is not limited to, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, e-readers, headphones, and other devices with functionalities such as wireless communication, internet access, messaging, video recording, gaming, social media access, or data transmission. This does not include any listening devices or other technology issued by RCPS or as approved by school administrators.

'School day' means the bell-to-bell period for students receiving instruction on a school campus. Such term shall not apply to students receiving virtual or remote instruction away from a school campus.