BOWLING GREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

Research

Research shows that student use of personal communication devices (PCDs) —such as cell phones, tablets, and similar devices—while at school can negatively impact academic performance and mental health. These devices often distract students from classroom instruction, leading to lower test scores and reduced learning. Increased cell phone use has also been linked to higher levels of anxiety, depression, social isolation, sleep problems, attention difficulties, and other mental health concerns in children. Because of these concerns, Bowling Green Middle School has adopted a new Personal Communication Device policy for the 2025–2026 school year (see BOE Policy 5136).

Use of Cell Phones and other Devices

- Cell Phones: Must be powered off and stored in lockers during the school day (7:50 a.m. - 2:32 p.m.)
- Headphones/Earbuds: Only wired headphones may be used with permission, and only with school-issued Chromebooks. Wireless headphones/earbuds are not allowed during the school day. All headphones/earbuds should remain in lockers during the school day.
- Chromebooks/Laptops/Tablets: Only school-issued Chromebooks may be used during the school day, and should be used for school-related purposes only. Personal tablets and laptops should remain in lockers during the school day.
- Smartwatches: May be worn, but should not be used or accessed during the school day.

Special Exceptions

Students with documented medical needs (for example, managing diabetes) or who have accommodations listed in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan may use approved devices, with permission from the school administration and in coordination with a parent or guardian.

Discipline for Policy Violations

If a student violates this policy, the following disciplinary measures will be implemented:

- First Violation: The student receives a verbal warning, and the device is held in the main office until the end of the school day.
- Second Violation: A parent or guardian is contacted, and the student's device is held in the main office until the end of the day.
- Third Violation or More: A parent or guardian is contacted, the device is held in the main office for the remainder of the day, and the student receives a school consequence (such as Friday School or In-School Suspension).
- If the violation involves illegal activity, the matter will be referred to law enforcement.

Parent Communication

Parents and guardians who need to reach their child during the school day should call the BGMS main office at 419-354-0200. With staff permission, students may also use the office phone to contact home if needed.

This policy is designed to help students stay focused, reduce distractions, and support their well-being during the school day. We appreciate your cooperation as we work together to create a positive and productive learning environment for all students.

LOCKERS:

Decorating your locker is a fun way to add your own personality to your space at school. When doing so, please keep the following in mind:



- ✓ Magnets are an acceptable way to hang decorations on the inside of your locker. Please use blue painters tape when necessary
- ✓ Decorations are only permitted on the inside of your locker
- ✗ The following items are *not* permitted on the inside or outside of your locker
  - contact paper
  - stickers
  - tapes and glue of any kind
  - graffiti of any kind
- ✓ A regular cleaning of your locker is important. Excessive clothing, gym bags, papers etc. may hide daily school work and create locker jams. Foods and drinks left overnight may invite unwanted guests.

FOOD DELIVERIES:

Fast food deliveries are *not* accepted at the Bowling Green Middle School.

Our Bowling Green City School Food Service department works diligently each day to provide healthy breakfast and lunch options for students at a reasonable price.

Students are also able to bring a packed lunch if that is a better option for your family.

