



Oakes Public School

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to inform you of an important policy update regarding student use of personal electronic communication devices during the school day. In accordance with North Dakota Century Code § 15.1-07-39, the Oakes School District has adopted a districtwide ban on student use of personal electronic devices during instructional time, effective immediately for the 2025–2026 school year.

This new policy applies to all K–12 students and prohibits the use of personal electronic communication devices—including cell phones, smartwatches, tablets, Bluetooth devices, and gaming systems—during the school day, unless explicitly approved by staff for educational or medical purposes.

What is Allowed:

- Use of school-issued or teacher-approved devices for specific educational activities.
- Medically necessary devices with prior administrative approval.
- Devices required by a student’s IEP or 504 Plan.

What is Not Allowed:

- Using personal phones or smartwatches for texting, calling, photography, social media, or any communication during the school day.
- Devices visible or accessible in classrooms, hallways, lunchrooms, bathrooms, recess, or any instructional setting.

Student Contact with Families:

Students who need to contact a parent or guardian during the school day will be allowed to use a school phone in the office. Parents who need to reach their child during the day should contact the school office directly. Direct calls or texts to student devices during the school day are not permitted.

Consequences for Violations:

If a student is found in violation of the device policy, the following steps will be taken:

1. First Offense – Device is confiscated and held in the office. Parent/guardian must pick it up.
2. Second Offense – Confiscation, parent pick-up, and loss of lunchroom and recess (elementary) or lunch (secondary) privileges for 5 days.
3. Third Offense – Confiscation, parent pick-up, and In-School Suspension.
4. Further Offenses – Progressive disciplinary measures, including potential restriction from school-related activities.

Refusal to comply (e.g., not handing over the device) may result in immediate escalation to higher-level consequences.

This law and district policy aim to protect the learning environment, reduce distractions, and promote student engagement, well-being, and peer interaction. We appreciate your partnership in reinforcing this important expectation at home.

Please feel free to contact your child's building principal with any questions.

Sincerely,

Greg Dobitz
Principal, Oakes Elementary School

Jordan Lynch
Principal, Oakes Junior High & High School

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