



Unified District Cell Phone & Personal Device Usage

Purpose

The Avonworth School District acknowledges that cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, and other personal communication devices are an integral part of modern life. While students may bring these devices to school, our priority is to maintain a safe, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment. Each building has specific expectations for when and how devices may be used. These expectations are outlined below.

General Expectations for All Buildings (Grades K–12)

- **Device Responsibility** – Students are solely responsible for their devices. The District and its staff are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged devices.
 - **No Sharing Devices** – Students are not permitted to share their personal devices with others. Possessing another student's device without permission may result in disciplinary action under the district's theft policies.
 - **Recording Restrictions** – Students are prohibited from taking photographs, videos, or audio recordings of themselves, other students, or staff without prior express permission. Posting such content from the school day without permission may result in disciplinary action.
 - **Cyberbullying/Cyberbaiting** – Will not be tolerated. Consequences are outlined in the Student Handbook and Discipline Code.
 - **Technology Misuse** – Activities such as hacking, bypassing security measures, or introducing harmful software into the network are strictly prohibited and subject to disciplinary action.
 - **Contacting Students** – All communication between parents/guardians and students during the school day must be directed through the main office to ensure student safety.
 - **Failure to Comply** – Refusal to hand a device to staff when asked may result in disciplinary consequences, up to and including suspension for insubordination.
 - **Administrative Discretion** – The building principal may address situations not covered in this policy on a case-by-case basis in alignment with Board Policy 237.
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Building-Specific Guidelines

Avonworth Primary & Elementary Schools (Grades K–5)

- **During the School Day** – Cell phones must be turned off and stored in backpacks.
 - **Smartwatches** – Using the device for calls or texts during the day is prohibited and will result in its removal and storage in the locker. Smartwatches may be worn by a student during the day, but must be set to silent, school, or airplane mode.
 - **Misuse** – Repeated misuse will result in increased administrative intervention.
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Avonworth Middle School (Grades 6–8)

- **During the School Day** – Cell phones and smartwatches connected to phones must be turned off and either:
 - Stored in backpacks, OR
 - Placed in the designated classroom storage area upon entry.
 - **No Use Periods** – Devices may not be used at any time during the school day, including lunch, transitions, or restroom breaks.
 - **Parent/Student Communication** – Students may use a classroom or office phone with teacher permission if needed.
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Avonworth High School (Grades 9–12)

- **During Instructional Time** – Cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, or similar devices must be turned off, put away, and out of sight, either:
 - Stored in backpacks, OR
 - Placed in the teacher-designated classroom storage area.
 - **Permitted Use Times** – Devices may be used during lunch, LEAD (except Wednesdays), Open Mods, and transitions between classes.
 - **Restroom Use** – Devices may not be taken to the restroom during instructional periods.
 - **Music in Class** – If permitted by a teacher, music must be played from a Chromebook, not a phone.
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Consequences for Violations (Middle & High School)

- **1st Offense** – Device turned off, stored, and a warning issued.
- **2nd Offense** – Device taken to office; student may retrieve it at day's end.
- **Additional Offenses** – Office referral for Acceptable Use Violation; possible requirement for parent retrieval or daily office check-in.