



**David Paterson Elementary
IB WORLD SCHOOL**

40 Fulton Avenue
Hempstead, NY 11550
516-434-4452 Fax: 516-489-6492



**Linda St. John
Principal
Ext. 4452**

lstjohn@hempsteadschools.org

**Dr. Juanita Winfield
Assistant Principal
Ext. 4453**

jwinfield@hempsteadschools.org

*David Paterson IB World School
is committed to
building partnerships with
students, staff, parents,
and the community to develop
life-long learners
through rigorous inquiry and
empowerment, our learners
will be equipped to become
college and career ready
and exemplify attributes and
skills of a 21st century
global citizen.*



**Every Child!
Every Chance!
Every Day!**

July 28, 2025

**Re: No Cell from Bell to Bell:
Smartphone Restrictions in New York**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

David Paterson Elementary School, in alignment with New York State's Education Law § 2803, is committed to provide the best possible learning environment for our students. Therefore, we are implementing the **"No Cell from Bell to Bell" policy effective August 1, 2025.**

Beginning on this date, all students will be **required to lock their cell phones in designated secure storage areas upon arrival at school.** Phones will remain locked during school hours and will be returned to students at the end of the day.

This new policy is intended to:

- Promote a focused and respectful classroom environment
- Reduce distractions from social media, texting, and games
- Encourage face-to-face communication and engagement
- Improve overall academic performance

We understand that technology plays an important role in our daily lives, but we are confident this change will lead to a more focused and productive school experience for your child.

What to Expect:

- Upon arrival, students will place their phones in a secure, locked storage locker in their classroom.
- Phones will be inaccessible during the school day, including lunch and passing periods.
- In case of emergencies, parents may contact the main office at (516) 434-4452.
- Students will retrieve their devices at dismissal. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (516) 434-4452.

We appreciate your support in helping us prioritize learning and student well-being.

Sincerely,
Linda St. John