



## **Mad River Local Schools Updated Student Personal Communication Devices Expectations**

### **2025-26 Student Handbook Addendum**

In accordance with the new **state law (House Bill 96)**, the use of cell phones and other personal communication devices (PCDs) is now banned during the school day across all Ohio schools. As a result, the following updated expectations will be in place for all students.

#### **Grades K–12 Expectations**

Students in grades K–12 are **not permitted to use personal communication devices (e.g., cell phones, earbuds, and other personal communication devices)** during the school day, which includes normal school hours and/or instructional time.

#### **Exceptions:**

- **Medical Use:** With a documented medical need as determined by a physician and approved by the building principal.
- **School-Related Events:** During official after-school events or extracurricular activities.
- **Transportation:** While riding in school vehicles. However, behavior that is distracting or creates an unsafe environment may result in the loss of this privilege.

#### **Storage Requirements/Classroom Procedures:**

- **Grades 9-12:** Devices will be collected during 1<sup>st</sup> period by the 1<sup>st</sup> period teacher and picked up by students at the end of their school day. Additional details will be provided by the high school administration.
- **Grades 6–8:** Devices must be powered off and stored in the student's locker.
- **Grades PK–5:** Devices must be powered off and stored in the student's bookbag inside their cubby.

**Violations** will result in **disciplinary action in accordance with the student code of conduct and confiscation of the device in the building's office. The device may have to be picked up by a parent or guardian based on the district's progression of discipline.**

#### **MRLS Board Policy 5136 Discipline Progression:**

- A. Issue a verbal warning and require the student to store the PCD in accordance with this policy.

- B. Confiscate the PCD and store it securely in a staff-controlled locker, bin, or drawer for the duration of the class or period.
- C. Confiscate the student's PCD and store it in the facility's central office for the remainder of the school-related event or school day.
- D. Confiscate the student's PCD in the facility's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
- E. Detention
- F. Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's PCD use.
- G. Loss of privilege to bring a PCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.
- H. In-school suspension.
- I. Out-of-school suspension.
- J. Expulsion