

Student Cell Phone Use - MRH Teacher Survey

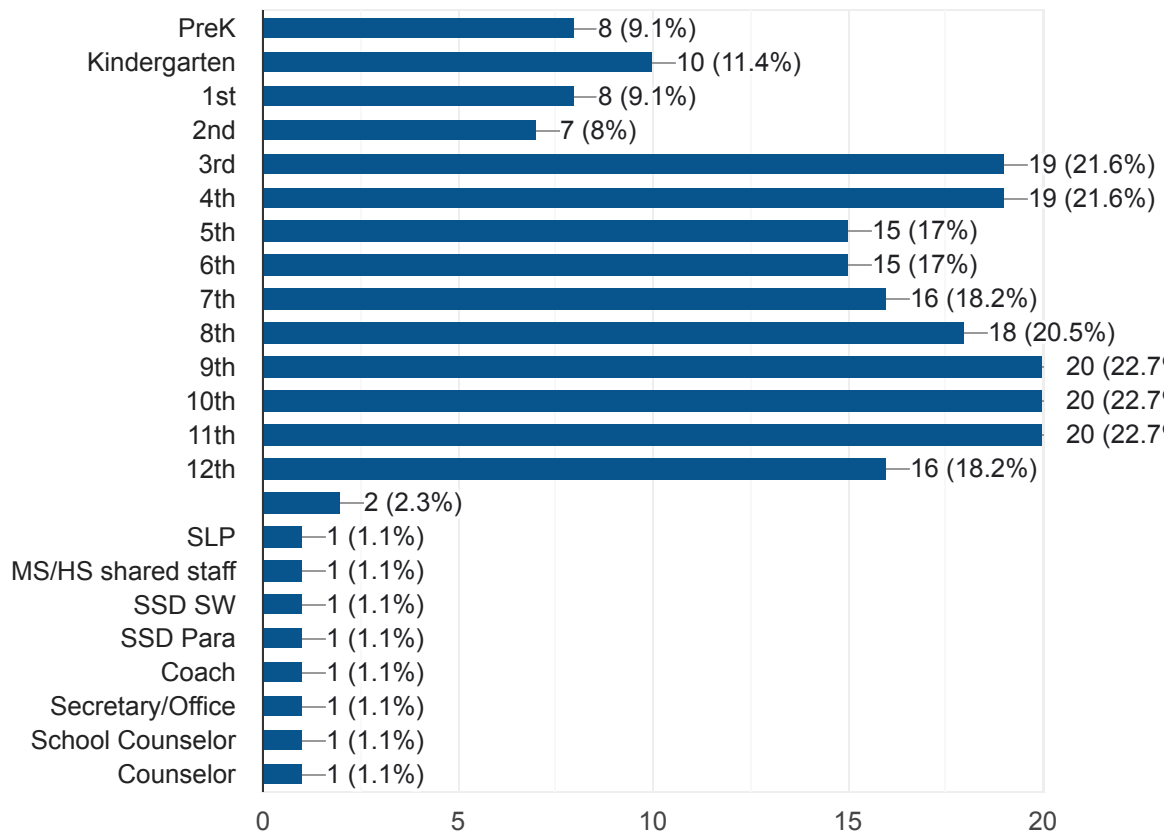
89 responses

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What grade do you teach? Choose ALL that apply. (If you are not a teacher, please choose "other" and specify your roll in the school.)

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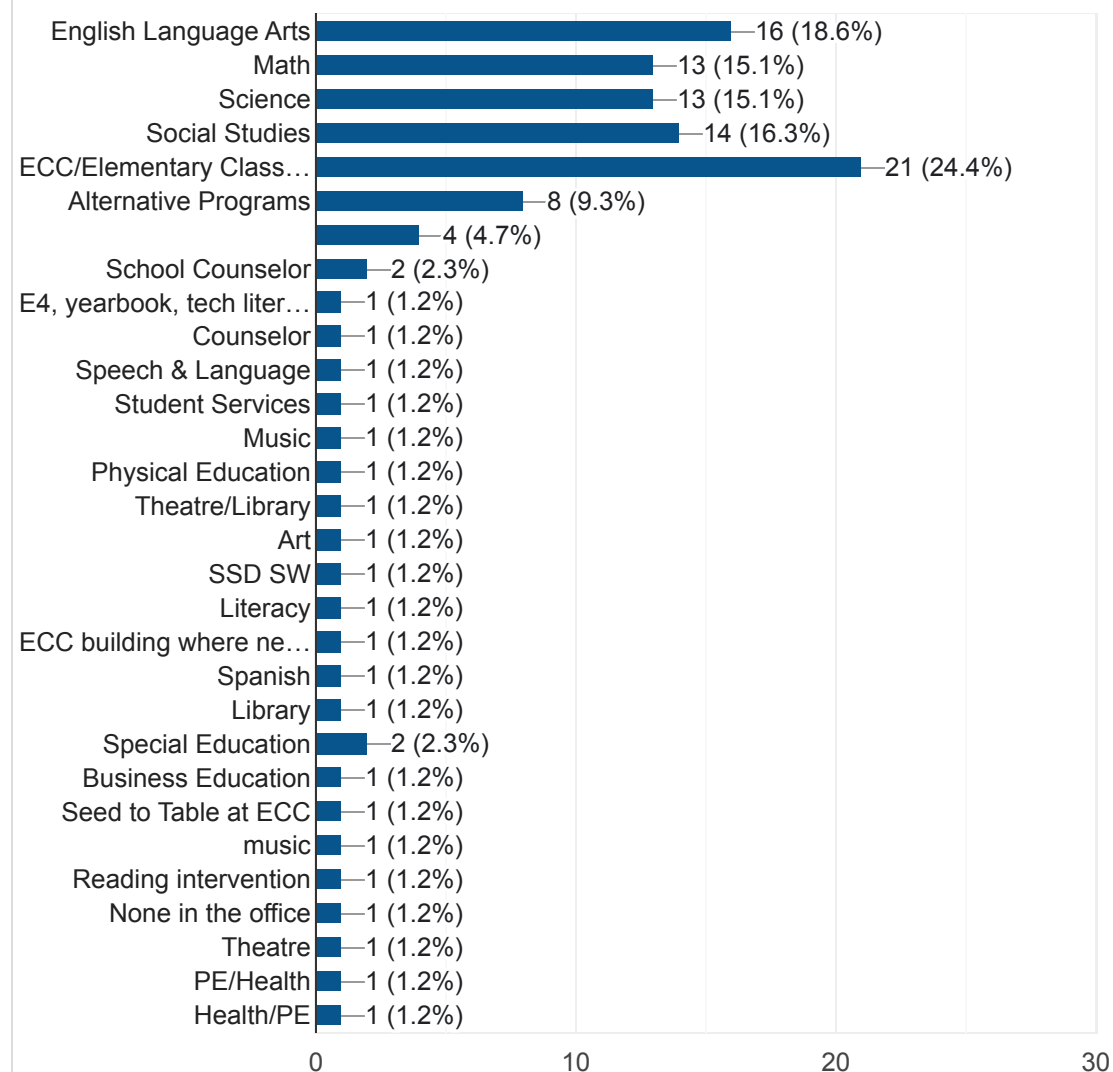
88 responses



What subject do you teach? Choose ALL that apply. (If you choose "other," please specify.)

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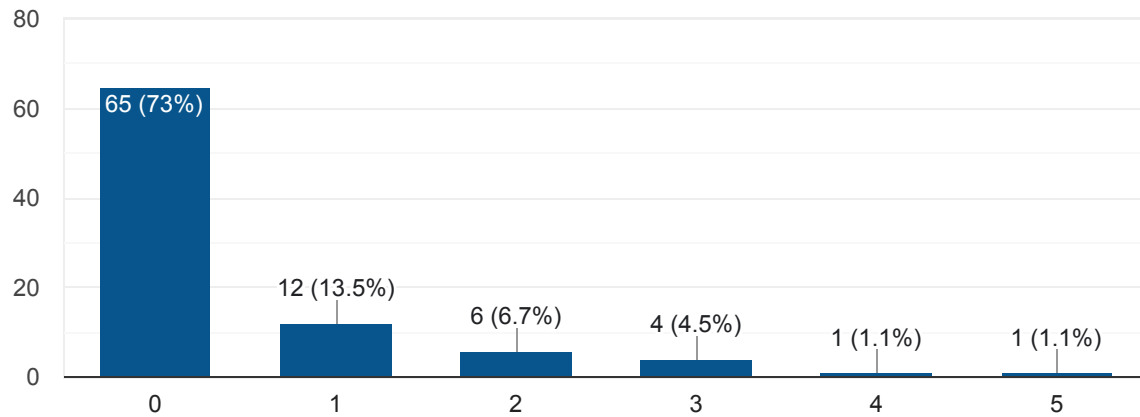
86 responses



How many of your students use their cell phones for academic or class-related tasks in class?

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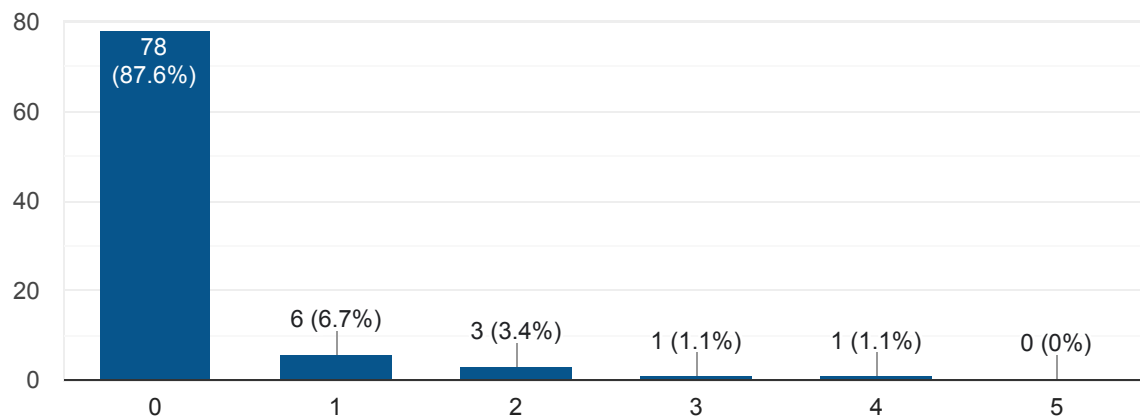
89 responses



How many of your students use their smart watches for academic or class-related tasks in class?

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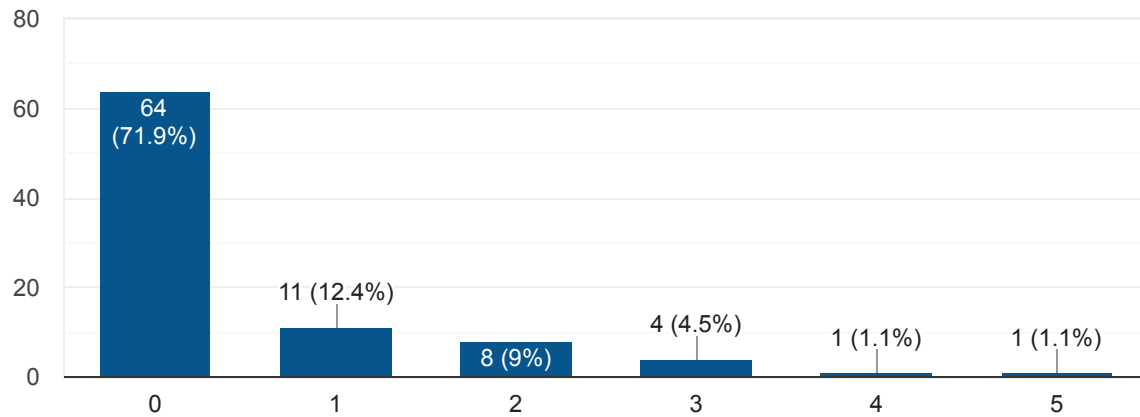
89 responses



How many of your students regularly use a personal device (not the district-issued Chromebook) to complete academic tasks for your class?



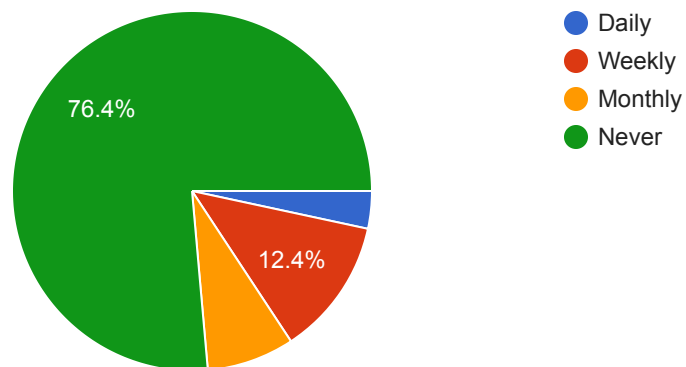
89 responses



If students are using their cell phones for academic or class-related tasks in class, how often are they using them?



89 responses



Feel free to share any other comments or concerns you have in relation to cellphone usage in your classroom.

38 responses

I'm just hoping when the results of this survey are shared we're given more "why" behind it - seems like we're trying to decide if we're going to stay in compliance with the law. (Or to what degree we will be in compliance)

I love the new policy

Given the state ban, i was hopeful that we would start the school year with clear messaging for students that cell phones will not be allowed in any building. It is so important for expectations to be set early and enforced often. i worry that without strong, consistent messages around this, the opportunity to restrict cell phone use will be squandered. The no cell phone policy in middle school is strong, and the students benefit because of it. In the high school, neither students nor teachers are prepared for this shift. In our Building Leadership Team meeting yesterday, i expressed my concern around this and requested clear communication to staff, students, and families prior to the start of the school year.

Atudents have used their devices to help them do work. Their cell phones and watches are not powerful than their chrome books. I have not had a major issue with using to distract or ask to pause and focus on what we are doing. There are several elementary teachers ci stately on their phones while supervising or running meetings. Which is super noticeable and truly questionable. Teachers also check email and such during meetings. It is a sec and no disruption. We need to show students how they are tool and how they can help them. How can we ban things that adults who are role models are using far more than students. I also question if kids are constantly on phones and not doing work in one's room, is your instruction veered for the students and engaging or are you lecturing and preaching.

In my grade levels, the biggest issue we have is Smart Watches that allow students to message their parents, play games, etc. I don't have any students using cell phones or smart watches for academic reasons.

Anything they need to do internet wise can be done with their computer. No devices.

Not an issue

Reading the MRH policy, it does not address earbuds, but most other districts do. Is this an oversight?

Since students are each assigned a Chromebook, they do not need to utilize any of their personal devices such as a phone, smartwatch or home computer. Use of these personal devices are distracting and unnecessary at school.



I would like for whatever we put in place to be very clear and detailed. For example, what point ARE students allowed to use phones? In the bus line after class is dismissed, on the bus? It will be helpful for parents, students, and teachers to know exactly when phones can come out and when they need to be put away.

I have students using smart watches to monitor their "daily step count" and heart rate.

Concerned about staff being on their cell phones and or computer in the classroom, on the playground, and during lunch with the children present. They aren't talking to a parent or emailing a parent. It's a SOCIAL call and not a professional reason to be on computer. Staff need to be reminded that cell phones and computers are not to be used during child instruction. They often are not supervising or interacting with the children.

I'm all for saying they need to be put away and not used at all during the school day. Even having them put away at lunch would help students interact with each other more.

The watches are just as big of a distractions for students

Some students use personal devices for academic tasks but none NEED to, and I'd support complete removal of students phones during the school day.

I do not think students need to have cell phones to complete academic tasks. If they do for some reason need them- to use as a camera or recording devise- I think teachers can have some sort of visual "pass" for them to use (a brightly colored bracelet or something). I am concerned that there has not been a clearly established policy for the school year already shared out with students and families. And I worry that sending out surveys gives the impression that there is room for discussion. I was under the impression that students across Missouri were not to have their phones visible for the entire school day. Period. I think the middle school has been able to pull this off with success and believe that the high school should replicate their protocol. It will be a complete mess at first as students have to deal with a new expectation, but once they see that we are serious about it- I think it can work. I think the benefits of students learning to navigate school time without their phones- far outweigh the cons. And ultimately- I think after a very hard initial phase of setting this new expectation, I think students will feel relieved and will see the positive impacts of getting a break from their devices. I have seen the phrase "Bell to bell- no cell" used in other districts and signs posted including images of cell phones and apple watches - with the phrase "away all day". I think we need to have extremely clear language and images around this new expectation. Teachers will only feel safe to execute these plans if there are clear consequences for violating the expectations and belief that those consequences will be enforced consistently. This will put a strain on our admin at the beginning of the year- so they might need support.

Phones offer no benefit to the classroom.

Students occasionally use the camera on their phones to document work in progress or final projects. I would prefer to acquire digital cameras to achieve the same result so that the phone doesn't distract students when they use the camera function. Last year I prohibited cell phone use during class except for this purpose, and we had a MUCH more successful start to the



year, which gave us a lot of productive momentum in our work—even as students later pushed that boundary or school-wide enforcement became more difficult. I noticed that students had more appropriate social interactions and engaged more fully in their projects. Students themselves also expressed that they were curious about how school environments felt before widespread smartphone use, and they also acknowledged how distracted they felt by their phones. I am strongly in favor of a school-wide cell phone ban during school hours for reasons of consistent enforcement and accountability, creating positive classroom and school culture, and student safety and wellbeing.

First friends- so they obviously do not have devices yet.

The only reason I ever let a student use their phone is for pictures in science experiments as their chromebooks are terrible.

I feel that cell phones are a source of both chaos and calming at times. I have had students use them to text for breaks, use calming apps, reminders and alarms along with check grades. I would say those times are much fewer than the video taking, texting, and youtube video watching that is distracting them from work and community. It is channeling to redirect and even closing tabs creates chaos and emotional dysregulation that further limits academic engagement. For many students I work with and those I observe, study halls, lunch and downtime turn into movie watching rather than connecting with peers/community or completing work. I am not in favor of a full bell-to-bell ban on cell phones and smart watches as I feel we could help teach moderation and regulation in our environment since phones will exist once they leave our walls and often similar videos/games/text messaging can be accessed on their chromebooks.

My students mostly use their devices for personal entertainment/social media and not for class-related tasks. 99% of the time, their devices are a major distraction for them and pull them away from learning. It's a constant battle.

Students are using their cell phones for personal use, rarely for academic purpose.

I think students will be fine with one electronic device, the school device. They can focus more in class, they should be able to have their cellphone in their backpack for any emergency but not getting it out during class.

I'm a big fan of the cell phone ban, but concerned about inconsistent follow-through on consequences among staff members.

Most of my students put cell phones away when they are asked. They use them during down time to play games and then need extra reminders to put them away. Last year cell phones were not nearly as large of a problem during class time as they were the previous year.

I have only had students ask if they could use their phones as cameras. I don't allow it because I can't control what/who they photograph and some students' parents have not given us permission to take their picture.



This new policy needs to be explicit about smart watches, which students can still make phone calls, text, and play games on.

In my experience, it has not been beneficial to academic success. It only contributed to an unsafe environment at school for students.

In lower elementary school, I don't tend to run into many phone problems. However, the apple watches have been a huge challenge with parents texting their kids during my lessons and taking away from their learning and focus. I am concerned on how to address apple watches specifically in the classroom since so many parents have the explanation that they need it on them (their child) for safety reasons and also for communicating after school when they walk or bike home.

RE this survey: These questions are not on target. They do not ask whether students are doing what they are asked/required to do. The third fourth and fifth questions are not construed clearly—especially for a teacher who works with 7-11 graders.

This survey does not account for the level of whole-class distraction caused by one cell phone being misused.

The use of personal devices puts students on an uneven playing field and it enables a culture of breaking rules (they compromise tests). This survey fails to ask teachers which policies they would like their school to adopt.

Comments -

MRH could and should be a leader on this issue both in terms of policy and in terms of communications about that policy.

The strongest and clearest policies can be built around the most important goal, developing our sense of community.

If "doing hard things together" is written as a central goal of our mission, we can teach ourselves and each other how to forgo the use of cell phones and how to use devices appropriately.

In order to build consensus and adopt policies that are supported through the community, this survey might have been collected in May (when the legislation was adopted).

That said, everyone will want to know asap what the outcomes are.

Keep up the good work. Don't be afraid to try hard things to teach the practice of doing what's best.

It doesn't cost anything to not have a cell phone on your person at all times. It certainly makes you more aware and available to interact with your community.

This is not a budget issue. This is a community issue. WE matter more than devices.

Thank you for all that you do!

One specific lesson per semester uses cell phones, as we do not have district devices that will enable the lesson.

Kids don't need their phones in the classroom. Period.



it is policy that phones stay out of sight in the elementary building. Kids sometimes have them in pockets but should not use them

Cell phones should not be used in class or anytime during the school day

The cell phones need to go! They can do everything on their Chromebooks!

no cell phones in classes should be district policy

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