

Policy on Cell Phone Use in School

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students remain focused on their academic work, promote a positive learning environment, and minimize distractions during school hours. We understand that personal electronic devices are extremely useful and have become an integral part of our daily lives, but at the same time are often used inappropriately. Please do not call or text your students during the school day except during lunch.

Scope:

This policy applies to all students at Cusick School District

Policy Details:

1. Cell Phone Restrictions:

- **Cell phones are prohibited during school hours** except during designated lunch periods.
- Students must keep their cell phones powered off or in silent mode and stored out of sight (e.g., in lockers or backpacks) throughout the school day, including during class time and transitions between classes.
- **Cell phones may not be used during instructional time**, including in hallways, classrooms, or any other areas where classes are in session.

2. Exceptions:

- Cell phones **may be used during lunch breaks** in designated areas, such as the cafeteria.
- Exceptions to this policy may be granted on a case-by-case basis for medical or emergency purposes, but must be approved by the school administration.

3. Consequences for Violations:

- **First Offense:** The student will receive a warning.
- **Second Offense:** The student's cell phone will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day.
- **Third Offense:** The student's cell phone will be confiscated and returned only to the student's parent or guardian.
- **Fourth Offense:** The student's cell phone will be confiscated and returned only to the student's parent or guardian. The student and parent will be informed that the student will not be allowed to have a phone in school for the rest of that school year. The student may bring the phone to school and check it in to a designated person in the front office.

4. Staff Responsibilities:

- Staff are expected to enforce this policy consistently and fairly. If a student is seen using a cell phone in violation of this policy, the staff member should address the situation promptly.
- Any staff member may confiscate a cell phone if it is seen or heard during restricted hours.

5. Rationale:

- The intent of this policy is to ensure students are focused on learning, to reduce the potential for distractions, and to minimize issues related to cyberbullying, cheating, and other inappropriate uses of cell phones during school hours.

Implementation:

This policy is effective immediately and will be communicated to students, parents, and staff. Continued enforcement and monitoring will take place throughout the academic year to ensure compliance.