



Highland Park Middle School

Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Policy

At Highland Park Middle, our priority is to create a focused, positive, and collaborative learning space. To achieve this, our school-wide policy requires that all student cell phones be turned off and secured in lockers for ***the entire school day, 8:30 am to 3:00 pm***. This policy aligns with Minnesota Statute 121A.73, which governs cell phone use in schools, and [Saint Paul Public Schools Policy 550.00](#).

We know you may have questions, and we hope this page provides clarity on the "why" behind our policy and the procedures we follow.

Q: What happens if a student uses their phone, earbuds, or other personal device during the school day?

A: We have a straightforward procedure for violations of this policy.

- **First Time:** The student is issued a warning, and the device will be taken to the office to be picked up by the student at the end of the day. An email will be sent to the parent/guardian to relate the incident.
- **After the First Time:** For any subsequent violation, the device (cell phone, earbud, etc.) will be taken to the office, and a **parent or guardian will be required to come to the school to pick it up.**

Q: Why can't my student keep their phone with them during the day?

A: Our primary goal is to create the best possible learning environment. We do this in two key ways:

Prioritizing Human Interaction: We believe one of the most critical skills students learn in middle school is how to communicate and collaborate effectively face-to-face. A phone-free environment encourages students to engage directly with their peers and teachers.

Eliminating Distractions: Cell phones are a major source of disruption. Eliminating notifications and the temptation to check texts allows students to be fully present and focused on their lessons.

Q: Is this an anti-technology policy?

A: Not at all. Highland Park is a **1:1 device school**, and we are committed to **providing students with access to technology in a supervised academic setting**. Every student is issued an iPad to use as a powerful learning tool under the guidance of their teachers. Middle school social dynamics are already complex, and personal phones can unfortunately amplify drama and provide a platform for unkindness. By removing phones from the equation during the school day, we reduce these issues and maintain a safer, more positive social climate where students can focus on building healthy, in-person relationships.

Q: What if I need to reach my child in an emergency?

A: Please call the main office at 651-293-8950. We will ensure your child receives any urgent message immediately. This is the most reliable method to contact your student during school hours.

Requiring phones to be secured in a student's locker is the safest way to prevent them from being lost, damaged, or stolen. Please be aware that the school is not responsible for lost or stolen personal items.

We appreciate your partnership in supporting a focused and engaging school day for all our students.