



Cell Phone Policy

As we continue to prioritize student well-being, academic focus, and a positive school climate, Billinghurst Middle School is updating its phone and personal device policy beginning in the 2025–2026 school year. This shift reflects both stakeholder feedback from our recent family and staff survey and a broader national movement to reduce screen dependency in schools.

This policy supports the *WCSD Phone Away and Learn Today* initiative and reflects a districtwide effort to minimize distractions and maximize learning. It aligns with expectations already in place at other WCSD middle schools and builds on the positive progress we've made in reducing phone-related disruptions over the past year.

Phone & Device Expectations:

Phones and personal electronic devices must be turned off and stored out of sight for the entire school day, from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM.

This rule applies during: Class time, passing periods, lunch/recess, any on-campus setting during the instructional day.

Use of phones or smartwatches for texting, calling, photos, videos, or social media is strictly prohibited during school hours. Devices may only be used under administrative supervision in the office in the case of an emergency.

Progressive Discipline Structure

- 1st Offense:
 - Verbal reminder
 - Phone confiscated for the class period and returned to the student at the end of class
 - Parent contacted by the teacher
- 2nd Offense:
 - Phone held in the front office until the end of the day
 - Parent contact by administration
- 3rd Offense:
 - Phone held in the office; parent must retrieve the device
 - Lunch detention assigned
- 4th Offense:
 - In-school suspension assigned
 - Student loses phone privilege for a designated period (e.g., two weeks)
 - Parent meeting required
- 5th Offense or More:
 - Additional in-school or out-of-school suspension
 - Behavioral contract may be implemented
 - Student may be placed on a daily check-in/check-out system for their phone

Additional Information:

Smartwatches used for communication (texting, calling, notifications, etc.) will be treated the same as phones and subject to the same consequences. Non-compliance, such as refusing to surrender a device when asked, may result in disciplinary action for defiance. In emergencies, parents should contact the main office directly, as students will not be permitted to use their phones during the school day. Families needing special accommodations for documented health or accessibility reasons should contact school administration.