



Trinity-Pawling School

Cell Phone Policy (Updated 7/24/25)

At Trinity-Pawling, we place great emphasis on the importance of being fully present and engaged in all aspects of school life. Just as students are expected to attend classes, chapel, athletics, and other daily commitments, they are also expected to participate in the community with attentiveness and respect. Cell phone use, when unmanaged, can become a distraction from these commitments and from the deeper connections that make a Trinity-Pawling education distinctive.

Our educational program is carefully designed as an integrated experience that fosters academic growth, character development, and meaningful relationships. Each aspect—whether in the classroom, on the athletic field, or in community gatherings—plays a vital role in a student’s growth. For this reason, we believe that responsible cell phone use is essential. When students learn to set aside their devices and embrace the full program, they develop habits of presence, focus, and resilience that will serve them not only throughout their years at Trinity-Pawling, but well into the future. In short, managing cell phone use is an important part of the transformational and lifelong learning we seek to instill.

The use of cell phones, earbuds, and headphones at Trinity-Pawling is framed by the needs of a healthy community and the demands of the academic program. The use of cell phones, earbuds, and headphones is prohibited during the academic day without specific permission from a teacher. The academic day commences at the first gathering of students for chapel or class meetings and extends through to the end of the final scheduled period on the daily academic schedule. Students may have phones on their person or in their backpack/bag for purposes of emergency communication or attendance at morning meetings and chapel. Students may not have earbuds in or headphones on during the academic day. Students using phones, earbuds, and/or headphones without specific permission from an adult will have their phones confiscated for a determined period of time.

Student cell phone/earbud/headphone use during athletic and cocurricular activities will be at the discretion of the coach or supervising adult. In general, though, those pursuits are to be phone/earbud/headphone-free, though phones can remain nearby in case of emergency.

All freshmen boarding students will be assigned to a supervised evening study hall from 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM. in the Dann Lecture Hall for the first marking period. Phone use is prohibited during that time. All 8th grade boarders will be in a supervised group setting in the dormitory, and phone use will be prohibited during evening study hall for the year. Those students in any grade who are unable to exercise productivity during their evening study hall will be assigned to supervised evening study hall in Dann Lecture Hall where cell phones are not permitted.