



Township of Ocean Intermediate School

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Kelly E. Weldon
Superintendent of Schools

Patrick O'Neill
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Christopher Amato
Principal

March 4, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take a moment to address a topic that has received significant attention both locally and across the state of New Jersey: student cell phones and electronic devices.

As many of you are aware, on January 8th a new “No Cell Phone Bell to Bell” bill was passed in New Jersey. Our administrative team has been carefully reviewing the guidance and expectations outlined in this legislation. While full implementation is not required until next school year, we believe it is both proactive and responsible to begin phasing in adjustments now to ensure a smooth transition.

The first phase of our plan focuses on personal electronic devices. As has been our recent practice, cell phones, smart watches, and wireless listening devices must remain stored during the school day. Students may keep these devices either in their lockers or secured in the classroom pouches provided in each room. Administrators will be routinely visiting classrooms throughout the day to ensure these expectations are being followed consistently. Additional information regarding next year’s full implementation will be shared as details are finalized.

Another significant adjustment involves Chromebook use during lunch. Beginning now through March 27th (the last day before spring break), students will not be permitted to use Chromebooks in the cafeteria during lunch periods on Wednesdays. We want to encourage face-to-face social interaction during this time. For students who enjoy gaming as a way to connect with peers, we will continue offering board games in the cafeteria. Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, additional games are being donated, and the game cart will be fully stocked and available for student use.

When we return from spring break, the expectation will be that Chromebooks are not used during lunch on a daily basis.

In addition, we are currently reviewing and inventorying all approved academic websites and instructional programs. As we move into the next phase of this plan, we will be refining digital

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access to minimize non-instructional use and reinforce that school-issued devices are tools for learning.

Over the next few days, these expectations will be reviewed with students during lunch periods. We ask that you also take a few minutes to discuss these changes at home so that students receive a clear and consistent message.

Beginning Monday, March 9, 2026, we will be increasing the level of enforcement of these expectations. Students who deliberately disregard these guidelines will be held accountable and may receive consequences up to the maximum outlined in our Code of Conduct.

Thank you in advance for your continued partnership and support. As additional details are finalized, I will be sure to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Amato".

Christopher Amato

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