# Cathedral 2026-2027 Cell Phone Policy

For the 2026-2027 school year, Cathedral High School will be following an ***out of sight bell-to-bell*** cell phone policy throughout the school day. Students will be required to keep personal wireless devices including cell phones, smart watches, and devices that connect to the internet or phone off their person while at school between the hours of 8:30am and 3:15pm. This policy applies to instructional time, passing periods, and lunch.

## Rationale:

As the Catholic High School of the future, Cathedral works to ensure that school policy and instructional methods remain mission focused and aligned with current educational research. There is a growing body of research that shows student access to cellphones and wireless devices during the school day leads to:

- Higher levels of anxiety and mental health struggles.
- Increased rates of distraction and shorter attention span.
- Lower overall academic performance and test scores.

Beyond the research, the mission of Cathedral High School is to instill in our students the competency to see and courage to act. This policy enhances Cathedral educator's ability to lay the groundwork for this mission both in and out of the classroom by creating school environments of presence, focus, and community.

Previously, students were required to place devices in cellphone caddies at the beginning of each class. While this policy is effective at reducing distraction during instruction, it encourages students to check their devices during all transition times during the day. In an age of reduced connection because of digital dissociation, this new policy is more aligned with Cathedral's Core Values of *Family* and *Educating Hearts and Minds,* as it prioritizes authentic, face-to-face connections. By eliminating cellphone use

during the day Cathedral students will gain more opportunities to grow within the school community in a way that technology cannot replicate.

## Communication During the School Day:

All Cathedral students have a school-issued Ipad as well as a school created email account. These devices will still be used and available to students throughout the day. It is encouraged that parents utilize student email for direct, during the day communication with their students. Parents are also encouraged to call our front office if they need to speak with their child. Students will be able to call parents via the front office, nurse, or Student Services Office during the day if needed.

## Medical Exemptions:

The health and wellbeing of our students remains a top priority for Cathedral High School. If a student has a medical situation that requires access to their phone throughout the day that will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

## Consequences:

If a student does not adhere to the expectations listed above the following will take place:

***Upon 1st offense*** the educator will take the device(s) and deliver them to the Dean's Office. The student can pick up the device(s) at the end of the day. The teacher will document this as an infraction in PowerSchool.

***Upon 2nd offense*** the educator will take the device(s) and deliver them to the Dean's Office. The teacher will document the infraction in PowerSchool. Parents or guardians will be required to come in to pick up the device by 4:00pm.

***Repeat occurrences*** will result in escalating consequences and can result in suspension and/or a Discipline Board.