



“Effort Creates Intelligence”

335 Manor Avenue
Downingtown, PA 19335
www.dasd.org

August 13, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we want to share an important update regarding the [Administrative Guidelines for School Board Policy 237 \(Electronic Devices\)](#). To support an engaging and focused learning space, our school will be moving to a "phone-free" environment during instructional time.

We understand that stepping away from constant connectivity can create some anxiety for both students and parents. Change can be challenging, but we ask that you begin conversations with your students prior to the start of the school year about these expectations so we can work together toward a smooth transition.

Why We Are Making This Change

Our primary goal is to foster an environment where students can truly engage with their learning, their teachers, and their peers. By removing the distraction of mobile devices, we aim to:

- **Increase Focus:** Minimize interruptions and help students remain fully present during lessons.
- **Boost Productivity:** Encourage students to complete their work during class, which reduces the need for heavy homework loads and helps lower overall stress and anxiety.
- **Enhance Connection:** Create space for face-to-face interaction, helping students build stronger, more positive social relationships with those around them.

Staying Connected

We want to reassure you that students will still have regular access to their devices throughout the day. Students will be able to check their phones during the following times:

- Between class periods
- During designated revision periods
- During lunch and "Lunch and Learn" times

For urgent matters during class time:

We ask that you refrain from texting or calling your student's personal device during instructional hours, as this creates a disruption. If you need to reach your child urgently, please contact the appropriate school office, and we will ensure they receive your message immediately:

Art Campbell
Head of School

Katherine Cole
Dean of Academics & Student Life

Dr. Troy Podell
Internships and Partnerships

Michael Sheehan
Dean of Curriculum & Instruction

610.269.2420
Fax: 484.694.5590



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Department	Contact
Main Office	610-269-2420
Attendance	610-269-2420, ext 43003
School Nurse	610-269-2420, ext 43020
Counseling Office	610-269-2420, ext 43031
Assistant Principal's Secretary Grade 9 & 11	610-269-2420, ext 43004
Assistant Principal's Secretary Grade 10 & 12	610-269-2420, ext 43002

Emergency Exception: In the event of a genuine school-wide emergency, students will be permitted to use their phones to communicate with their families.

Policy & Consequences

To ensure consistency and fairness across all classrooms, we will be following a clear progressive discipline structure for unauthorized phone use during class time:

1. **First Offense:** A verbal warning from the teacher.
2. **Second Offense:** A formal write-up and a warning from administration.
3. **Third Offense:** An assigned administrative detention.

Any further instances of unauthorized use after a third offense will be considered insubordination and addressed accordingly by the administration and the student code of conduct. Please see the administrative guidelines outlined in board policy 237.

We deeply appreciate your partnership and support in creating a more focused, calm, and connected learning environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Sincerely,

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Downingtown STEM Academy

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Head of School

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Dean of Academics & Student Life

Dr. Troy Podell
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