



CMS Cell Phone Policy - 2026-27

At Cascade Middle School we support an academic culture that does not allow for the disruption caused by cell phones & other electronics in classrooms, in our cafeteria & other outdoor spaces, hallways, or assemblies. We believe the best way for our students to engage in their learning is to reduce distractions in the classroom. By keeping their cell phones and electronic devices *SILENT & AWAY* and secure in their assigned lockers, our students will be practicing a valuable skill that can help prepare them for life beyond school. Below are the rules & responses regarding cell phones & electronic violations:

Procedures:

- Students will be free to use digital devices before and after school. Silent and away during the day from 8:50 to 3:45.
- Cell Phones & other electronic devices must be kept in student-assigned lockers during the “Silent and Away” timeframe.
- Phones, headphones, and other electronic devices used during instruction or class time will be removed and taken to the office unless prior arrangements with the classroom teacher or administrator have been made.

Consequences:

- **1st offense:** Phone is confiscated and locked away safely in the front office until the end of the school day. The student is reminded of expectations regarding cell phone/electronics usage and parents/guardians are notified of the violation via email.
- **2nd offense:** Parents/guardians are notified of the violation and need to pick up the phone from the school office.
- **3rd offense:** Students will be required to turn in their phone to the office every morning.

Communicating with Families:

We understand the need for families to communicate with their students during the school day from time to time. We also want students and families to recognize that communication with staff is exhibiting responsibility when it comes to this policy. The guidance below is our plan to collaborate with students and families on their specific needs:

- Students can check their cell phones and communicate with families in the morning before 8:50 or with teacher & staff permission
- Parents can contact the school at 541-355-7000 with messages for their student when:
 - We ask that families do not try to contact their student by phone or text during the school day unless the message is URGENT and cannot wait until lunch or after school.
 - Students are allowed to use our office phone(s) to make contact if needed.



Extenuating Circumstances:

We recognize that some students and families will have circumstances that this policy will not support. Exceptions to this policy may be made for health, safety or emergency reasons with prior building principal or designee approval or when use is provided for in a student's individualized education program (IEP). If families would like to discuss any extenuating circumstances for their student, please contact Leah Boon, Assistant Principal, to collaborate. leah.boon@bend.k12.or.us / (541) 355-7089

Resources & Research:

- Bend La-Pine School District Board Policy: [JFCEB-AR: Personal Communication Devices](#)
- Haidt, J. (2023, June 14). *Get phones out of schools now*. The Atlantic.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/06/ban-smartphones-phone-free-schools-social-media/674304/>
- *Is social media threatening teens' mental health and well-being?* Columbia University Irving Medical Center. (2022, April 22).
<https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/news/social-media-threatening-teens-mental-health-and-well-being>