Fresno Unified School District

Parents and Students,

The Cooper Academy Community would like to inform you about an important school policy taking place this upcoming school year. All Cooper Academy School classrooms will be "cell phone free zones" as well as any cell phone accessories or communication devices. **Assembly Bill No. 3216** authorizes a governing board to regulate the possession or use of electronic devices. All cell phones will be securely stowed in backpacks during the school day. This is a change from previous years when teachers set their own policies.

Our school has agreed that a consistent school-wide policy to eliminate cell phone use during instructional periods will help students stay more present and engaged in their learning. Our intent is to support all our students in their academic success by removing a major temptation and distraction. We ask that parents/families use the main office when communicating messages from home or school. If students need to make an emergency call during the day, they will need to come to the main office. If you need to contact your child during school hours, please contact the main office. If a cell phone/ electronic device rings, vibrates, or is used for any reason without permission, or is visible anytime or if the student is caught using it on campus, a staff member will confiscate the device, and parent must pick it up.

Policy Points:

- Cell phones are prohibited from use on the Cooper Academy campus. School issued devices will be the primary tool for instruction needing technology/applications
- Parents can communicate with students by calling the main office
- Parent Square

Cell Phone Policy Consequences:

- Cell Phone will be confiscated and held in the office
- Parent must pick up phone in the office

Chronic Violations: Parent Meeting will be held with an Administrator. Student must check in their cell phone each day by the first school bell and pick up after the last bell for the remainder of the school year.

Students who do not follow teacher directives will be acting in defiance which could result in disciplinary action
**Confiscated Cell Phones will be arranged to be picked up by parents/guardians.

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian Date

_____ _____
Student Date

**It should be noted that neither the school nor any of its employees are responsible for the loss of or damage to any student's phone or electronic devices, whether in the student's possession or confiscated by the staff. It is the responsibility of the student to adhere to this policy and to always secure his or her belongings. Classes and/or instruction will not be stopped to deal with or search for lost phones/devices.

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Why this Policy?

- **Mental Health:** Excessive phone use, particularly on social media, has been linked to increased anxiety, depression, and bullying. Declining learning outcomes, as reflected in overall GPA and graduation rates, are also of concern.
- **Academic Focus:** Limiting distractions helps students focus on learning. Students have shared that they appreciate time away from their phones and feel more engaged in school life when phones are put away.
- **Social Connection and Professional Communication Skills:** Students naturally engage more with peers and staff when not tethered to devices, strengthening our school community.
- **College and Career Readiness:** More colleges and testing centers are implementing phone-free policies. Preparing students to succeed in these environments starts now. Additionally, industry partners and employers have expressed concerns and don't allow devices during work hours.

What to Expect:

- **Emergency Protocols:** ParentSquare will be the primary source of information communicated to parents during an emergency; students can still communicate through staff-approved procedures. Parents are encouraged to use ParentSquare for immediate contact with the school rather than texting students directly during class hours.

Your Support Matters

- We recognize this is a shift and may require adjustments at home as well. This is a commitment to helping our students thrive.
- Talk to your child about the benefits of disconnecting during the school day.
- Use school communication tools like ParentSquare to stay in touch when needed.

"This policy is subject to revision as necessary, and any changes will be communicated to parents accordingly."

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Sincerely,

Cooper Academy