Fresno Unified School District

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."

*It should be noted that neither the school nor any of its employees are responsible for the loss 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.

Sincerely,

Cooper Academy