



Stephenson Area Public Schools

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District-Wide Cell Phone Policy

New Cell Phone Policy to Enhance Student Learning

We understand that cell phones are an integral part of our daily lives. However, to create an optimal learning environment for all students, we have implemented a new district-wide cell phone policy. This policy is designed to minimize distractions and promote a focused learning atmosphere.

Why the Change?

Research has shown that cell phone use in classrooms can significantly hinder student learning. Our goal is to create a safe and engaging educational environment where students can thrive.

- **Distractions:** Constant access to phones can disrupt classroom activities and prevent students from fully engaging in lessons.
- **Safety Concerns:** Misinformation can spread rapidly through social media, creating unnecessary anxiety and fear among students and parents.
- **Academic Focus:** We want to prioritize learning and ensure that students have ample opportunities to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Policy Details

1. **Device Storage:** Upon entering the school building, all electronic devices must be powered off and securely stored in lockers or backpacks.
2. **Locker Security:** Lockers are available for free at the school office. We strongly encourage students to use them.
3. **Consequences:** Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action, including warnings, detentions, in-school suspension, and out-of-school suspension. Repeated offenses may lead to a cell phone behavior contract.

4. Exceptions: In case of emergencies or unexpected changes in after-school plans, students may use the school phone with permission.
5. Extracurricular Activities: Cell phone use is permitted during extracurricular activities, athletic events, and dances. However, inappropriate use may result in disciplinary action.

We Value Your Partnership

We understand that this change may require adjustments for both students and parents. We appreciate your cooperation and support as we work together to create a successful school year.

Additional Information

For more details about the policy, including specific consequences and procedures, please refer to the Student Handbook.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's school or the district office.

[Student Handbook](#)

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By working together, we can create a positive and productive learning environment for all students.

Possible FAQ: New District-Wide Cell Phone Policy

General Questions

- **Why is the district implementing this policy?**
The policy aims to create a safer, more focused learning environment for all students. Research shows that excessive cell phone use can hinder academic performance and disrupt classroom activities.
- **Will this policy be enforced in all schools within the district?**
Yes, this policy applies to all schools within the district.
- **What happens if my child forgets to bring their phone to school?**
Students without phones will not be penalized. The focus is on creating a phone-free learning environment.

Policy Details

- **Where should students store their phones during school hours?**
Students should store their phones in their lockers or backpacks. Lockers are available for free at the school office.
- **Can students use their phones before and after school?**
Yes, students can use their phones before and after school hours.
- **What happens if a student is caught using a phone in class?**
Consequences for phone use in class range from warnings to out-of-school suspension, depending on the severity and frequency of the offense.
- **Are there exceptions to the policy?**
There are limited exceptions, such as using a school phone in case of emergencies or unexpected changes in after-school plans.

Parent and Guardian Concerns

- **How will this policy impact my child's ability to communicate with me during the school day?**
Students can use school phones in case of emergencies or to communicate with parents about changes in after-school plans.

- I am concerned about my child's safety. How can they reach me in case of an emergency?

The school has established emergency procedures, and students can use school phones to contact parents or guardians in case of an emergency.

- What can I do to support this policy?

You can support the policy by discussing its importance with your child, ensuring they understand the rules, and helping them develop effective time management skills.