



Sommer Edwards-Fountain
Principal

July 31, 2024

Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Warren G. Morgan II

Re: Away For the Day Cell Phone Policy

Board of Education
Sara Elaquad, J.D.
Board Chair

Dear Waverly Parents, Guardians and Supporters,

Robert W. Briggs, J.D.

We're making Waverly School a phone-free space to improve the teaching and learning experience and will implement our "Away for the Day" cell phone and electronic device collection policy beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

Robert M. Heard Sr.

Charlene Jones

Midori Lebrón

Denise W. Link

This change directly aligns with CMSD's board policy that states that *"To maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, students who choose to bring a personal cellphone or electronic device to school will have their phone/device subject to collection and/or storage during the student school day."* This policy follows Ohio House Bill 250, which requires the minimization of cell phone use in schools.

Nigamanth Sridhar, Ph.D.

Diana Welch Howell

Ex Officio Members

Michael A. Baston, Ed.D., J.D.

Laura Bloomberg, Ph.D.

Beginning with the first day of school, every scholar will be expected to turn their cell phones off as well as all other similar electronic devices and have them stored by school staff for the duration of the school day. Waverly scholars will not maintain possession of their phones and cannot use them until the end of the school day.

We have found that learning and academic performance as well as student behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

We do recognize that there may be circumstances where parents may have a need to communicate with their child/ren during the school day. In the event of an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child during the school day, please reach out to the main office at 216-838-7550.

To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in following our school-wide cell phone policy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 216-838-7550 or inquire about this new policy at our Back-to-School Celebration on August 15th from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

Thank you,

Sommer L. Edwards-Fountain

Sommer Edwards-Fountain,
Principal

Waverly School's Cell Phone Policy

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you have an emergency and need to contact your child during the school day, please contact the school's main office at 216-838-7550.

What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

What happens if my child's phone gets damaged at school during the cell phone collection and/or storage process?

Families are encouraged to carefully evaluate all associated risks and benefits when deciding whether to send a cell phone or electronic device to school with a student. Any student who chooses to bring a cellular phone or other electronic device to school shall do so at their and their family's own risk. The District and its employees will assume no responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage or vandalism to a cellular phone or other electronic device brought onto school transportation or property, even during times the phone or device are subject to the collection or storage process of the District.

What if my child does refuses to follow the school's cell phone collection policy?

All Waverly students are required to turn off their cell phones and similar devices and store them away for the day with school staff. Students who do not adhere to this policy and is caught in possession of their cell phone during the school day may be subject to corrective action as follows:

- a) Written notification to the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian by the school administrators
- b) Confiscation of the cell phone or electronic device until end of the school day or until the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian comes to the school to retrieve the cell phone or electronic device.
- c) Discipline as outlined in the district's student code of conduct for Level II and Level III offenses.

Refusal to turn in or store a cellular phone or electronic device to school personnel attempting to collect, store, or confiscate it pursuant to this policy constitutes a Level 2 offense. Repeated or chronic violations of the cell phone and electronic device acceptable use policy constitute a Level 2 offense.

In rare cases, students who chronically violate this policy even after attempts by the school to resolve the concern through communication with the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian may be subject to confiscation of their cell phone or electronic device by a school administrator until the end of the academic year. If a student damages any cell phone collection equipment, it will be considered a level 3 infraction for Damaging or attempting to damage property, and is a suspendable offense.