

August 2nd, 2024

Re: Cell phone-free school

Dear Marion-Sterling Families,

We are entering into our second school year of making our schools a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning experiences. We will once again be using Yondr pouches in an effort to aid us in collecting and safely securing student **cell phones, smart watches, wireless ear buds and other electronic devices** as students enter the building daily.

This policy 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.

Students will turn in cell phones during breakfast on a daily basis and will be assigned a pouch to keep their cell phone secure. School personnel will collect the cell phones in the cafeteria each morning and the phones will be given back to students at the end of the day prior to dismissal. Students who violate the Cell Phone Policy will be disciplined according to Student Code of Conduct.

We have found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. Research shows that the effects of creating phone-free educational environments on schools. Cell phone-free schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- 65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance
- 74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior
- 83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly at 216-838-1550 or attend one of our upcoming events such as the Back to School Meet the Teacher on **August 15th, 2024, from 3:05 pm - 5:05 pm.**

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to the main office at 216-838-1550. To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in creating a cell phone-free environment at our school.

Thank you,

Kelly Gibbs, Ed.S, Principal
Marion-Sterling

Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Warren G. Morgan II

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Ex Officio Members
Michael A. Baston, Ed.D., J.D.
Laura Bloomberg, Ph.D.

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 need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office at 216-838-1550.

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.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Student phones will be stored and housed in a locked space daily.

