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**July 31, 2024**

**Re: Cell phone-free school**

**Dear Nathan Hale Parents, Guardians and Supporters,**

We are once again making our schools a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning experiences using cell phone lock boxes.

This change 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.

Every scholar will be assigned a number in their homeroom and will secure their phone in a lock box assigned to their homeroom when they arrive at school, beginning day one! Locked boxes will then be secured and kept in the main office until the end of the school day when they are opened and returned to students. Students are required to place their phones in their assigned lock boxes each day.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates. A recent survey of over 900 school partners was taken to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These 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 216-838-4250 or attend one our upcoming meeting about the adoption of our cell phone policy that will occur on our back-to-school Meet the Teacher night on **August 15, 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 216-838-4250.

Thank you,

**Joelle McIntosh**

Principal

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Principal

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