

7/31/2024

**Re: Cell phone-free school****Dear Westropp Parents, Guardians and Supporters,**

We're making our schools a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning experiences. Clara E. Westropp will continue to collect cell phones and place in a locked box by grade level at the door upon entry. Phones are returned last period.

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.

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. Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners 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 216-838-6250 or attend one of our upcoming meetings about the adoption of our cell phone policy that will occur on our back-to-school Meet the Teacher night on **August 15 from 2:05 pm - 4:00 pm.**

- Written notification to the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian by the building administrator, and/or
- 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.
- 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 2I offense.
- Repeated or chronic violations of the cell phone and electronic device acceptable use policy constitute a Level 2Q 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 building administrator until the end of the academic year.

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to the main office at 216-838-6250. To best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in the adoption of the cell phone policy at our school.

Thank you,  
**Krystle George**  
Principal

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Dr. Warren G. Morgan II

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

Robert W. Briggs, J.D.  
Robert M. Heard Sr.  
Charlene Jones  
Midori Lebrón  
Denise W. Link

Nigamanth Sridhar, Ph.D.  
Diana Welch Howell

**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 216-838-6250.

### **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?**

Phones are stored in the main office secured.

- Written notification to the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian by the building administrator, and/or
- 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.
- 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 2I offense.
- Repeated or chronic violations of the cell phone and electronic device acceptable use policy constitute a Level 2Q 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 building administrator until the end of the academic year.