

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We will be making our school a **phone-free space** to improve teaching and learning using cell phone lock boxes to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

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.

Students will label and turn in their phone in the cell phone lock boxes in their homeroom classes to be locked by their teacher. Cell phones will remain locked in boxes until students leave at the end of the school day. If a parent picks a student up early, they will be given their phone at that time.

Over 900 school partners were recently surveyed 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 cell phone policy.

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.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the cell phone policy at our school.

Please see the following pages for frequently asked questions and district policies.

Thank you,

Leigh Bing

Assistant Principal

Westropp 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 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?

Students' phones will be locked in boxes and monitored by the classroom teacher.

What if a student is caught on their phone?

If a student is caught on their phone:

1st Offense- Phone turned into the office until the end of the school day.

2nd Offense- Phone call home and phone held until the end of the school day.

3rd Offense- Phone Collected & Held for 5 Days **OR** Parent Pickup **OR** Planning Center.

District STUDENT PHONE POLICY & GUIDELINES

Per the CMSD Student Code of Conduct Handbook, Acceptable use of cellphone during the school day are as follows:

Authorized Uses of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices:

The District has determined that the following uses of cell phones or electronic devices by student may be appropriate:

- a) Appropriate use of cell phones and electronic devices as specifically authorized by a teacher for the purpose of assisting in an educational process. A teacher's authorization to use a cell phone or electronic device is considered to cease upon notification by the teacher, a student's completion of the specifically authorized task or a student's dismissal from the classroom, whichever occurs first.
- b) Appropriate use of cell phones and electronic devices before the beginning or after the end of the instructional school day, provided the student is not on a school bus or other form of school-sponsored transportation.
- c) Communications with a student's immediate family members in the event of a Districtwide or schoolwide emergency as defined by the building administrator.
- d) Communications with a student's immediate family members authorized by a building staff member and that take place under the supervision of the authorizing staff member.

e) Use of cell phones or electronic devices as authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care/Medical Plan with supportive documentation from the student's physician.

Unauthorized Uses of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

Although students are empowered to use cell phones and other electronic devices in specific, appropriate ways as described above, students are never authorized to use a cell phone or electronic device for the following purposes:

- a) In violation of any other section of the Student Rights and Responsibilities, including, but not limited to the District's prohibitions against cheating, posting or distributing materials that disrupt the educational process, intimidation, threatening to injure or harm others, use of profane or abusive language, hazing, bullying, disrupting the school environment, engaging in a disruption on a school bus, and failure to adhere to school culture or directives of school personnel.
- b) To commit a crime, under federal or state law.
- c) To violate another person's reasonable expectation of privacy by using cell phones or other electronic devices in locker rooms, restrooms, or any other changing areas.
- d) To take photographs, audio recordings, or video recordings of other individuals, including other students, teachers, administrators, staff members, or members of the community without the explicit authorization of all individuals being photographed or recorded.

***Repeated or chronic violations of the cell phone and electronic device acceptable use policy constitute a Level 2Q offense. Refusal to surrender a cellular phone or electronic device to a teacher or administrator attempting to confiscate it pursuant to this policy constitutes a Level 2I offense.**