

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

For safety reasons, students are allowed to carry a cell phone and/or other similar electronic device (i.e. smart watch) to and from school. Therefore, cell phones and other similar electronic devices are allowed on campus. However, they must remain **TURNED OFF** during the instructional day and kept in a backpack all day, including during lunch, outside recesses, and in the restroom. Students can be asked to put away such items or have them confiscated, pending pickup by a parent or guardian. Cell phone use on CCSD buses is strictly the decision of the driver.

With the breathtaking pace of technology comes unanticipated consequences that can negatively impact the learning environment. One such example of this is the potential inappropriate use of cell phones and other similar electronic devices. Inappropriate cell phone/other similar electronic device use impacting instruction may include:

1. Cheating on schoolwork via text messages and cameras
2. Circulation of inappropriate photos taken in restrooms and locker rooms
3. Video game distractions
4. Ringing/texting/notifications that are distracting during instructional time
5. Signaling or leaving class/ditching/contact outside of school
6. Loss of instructional time to address electronic devices
7. Time spent investigating phone theft rather than focusing on student instruction

Of greater concern is the use of cell phones to compromise your child's safety. Nationwide, incidents of this nature include:

1. Setting up fights and fight locations
2. Electronic threats, harassment, and/or cyberbullying
3. Making drug deals
4. Impeding emergency efforts through rumors and incorrect information
5. Overloading phone systems, which can be severely limiting in emergency communication(s)

To address these issues, the Clark County School District is reminding parents/guardians of the following guidelines:

- Phones must be turned off and remain off and in a backpack during the instructional day, at lunch and recesses, in the restroom, and during passing periods. Phones left on vibrate/silent mode are subject to seizure as well. (CCSD Policy 5136)
- Cellular phones and other similar electronic devices may only be used prior to walking through the gates on campus or into the school building and after the final bell when already outside. Cell phones should be stored in a non-visible location (i.e. backpacks).
- Phones or other similar electronic devices confiscated in violation of these guidelines will only be returned to a parent/guardian during non-instructional hours.
- Cell phones and other similar electronic devices must remain turned off during a school evacuation, lockdown, or drill. During these situations, tell your child **NOT** to try and contact you by cell phone until given the okay by school staff, thus allowing emergency communication channels to remain open. The Parent Link communication system has the capability of contacting parents/guardians in an emergency.
- As a condition of possessing a device on campus, the student agrees to a search of the device's content if reasonable suspicion of violating the cell phone use policy exists.