

Dear Parent,

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.

Inappropriate cell phone use impacting instruction may include:

1. Cheating on tests/class work via text messaging and cameras;
2. Circulation of inappropriate photos taken in restrooms and locker rooms;
3. Video game distractions;
4. Ringing/text messaging distractions during instructional time;
5. Signaling for leaving class/ditching;
6. Loss of instructional time to address cell phone interruptions;
7. Time spent investigating thefts of cell phones rather than focusing on student instruction.

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

1. Setting up fights and fight locations;
2. Electronic threats/harassment;
3. Making drug deals;
4. Impeding emergency efforts through rumors and incorrect information;
5. Overloading phone systems severely limiting emergency communication.

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

1. Phones must be turned off and remain off during the instructional day and passing periods in compliance with CCSD Policy 5136. Phones left on vibrate/silent modes are subject to seizure.
2. Cellular phones may only be used prior to the first bell, after the final bell, or during scheduled nutrition breaks or lunch periods.
3. Cellular phones should be stored in a non-visible location (backpacks, purses, pockets).
4. Phones confiscated in violation of these guidelines will only be returned to a parent/guardian during non-instructional hours.
5. Cellular phones must remain off during a school evacuation, lockdown, or drill. During these situations tell your child NOT to try to 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.

Additionally, parents are asked to silence their cellular phones while at the school. This ensures both compliance with the above guidelines and serves to set a positive example for students.

Communication regarding your child's safety will in no way be hindered through these guidelines. Please be reminded that each school has intercoms and loudspeakers and the majority of our classrooms have hardwired telephones. Additionally, administrators and safety personnel are prepared with two-way radios and cell phones.

We understand how families have come to rely upon cell phones and other electronic devices to maintain the lines of communication; however, we have an ethical and legal responsibility to ensure that technology is used in a way that won't be harmful to others or create unsafe conditions in our schools, or undermine our educational purpose. We seek your support and hope that you will speak with your children so they too fully understand the importance of following these guidelines.

Thank you.