

## FAQ – Cell Phone Policy

What is the rationale for students not having access to their phones during lunch and passing periods?

- Social-emotional health
  - Prioritizing school as a place for learning that is distraction free.
  - Getting rid of the urge for students to constantly check their phone instead of having their undivided attention on learning.
- Cyber-bullying
  - Eliminating the opportunity for students to have pictures and videos taken of them by other students without their permission.
  - Limiting/eliminating the opportunity for students to text, message, or post things on social media during the school day.
- Minimizing inappropriate use of social media
  - The inappropriate use of social media is a problem throughout the country. Students will not have the opportunity to use social media during the school day.

How can I get a message to my student?

- You are welcome to call the main office at (719)328-3800. We have office assistants who can deliver a message.

What if I need to text my student something important during the day?

- You are welcome to call the main office at (719)328-3800. We have office assistants who can deliver the message to your student. You are welcome to still text them knowing they will get the message at 3:45pm when they can access their phones again.

How do I reach my student for a personal emergency?

- You are welcome to call the main office at (719)328-3800. We have office assistants or security officers (depending on the sensitivity of the message), who can deliver a message.

I want my student to have his/her cell phone with them at all times.

- Documented need to have their phone from a licensed professional will be reviewed by administration and students may be permitted to have it.

When can a student access his/her cell phone in school?

- After the first bell at 8:38, the phone must be kept in a pocket or backpack until the student can put it away in their locker.
- Cell phones can be used outside the building when leaving for the day after 3:45pm.
  - The “in the pocket or backpack” rule applies here as well.

What is the progressive discipline model for students who disobey the policy?

**First Offense:** The phone or other electronic device will be confiscated and held in the Main Office until 3:45. A verbal warning is given and documented in Q as an Office Referral.

**Second Offense:** The phone or other electronic device will be confiscated and held in the Main Office until 3:45. A lunch detention will be assigned, documented in Q as an Office Referral, and parent contact made.

**Third Offense:** The phone or other electronic device will be confiscated and held in the Main Office, and will only be returned to a parent/guardian.

**Fourth Offense:** The phone or other electronic device will be confiscated and held in the Main Office, and will only be returned to a parent. A “Check-in/Check-out” routine will be implemented with the Main Office. The parent is contacted and the infraction is documented in Q as Repeated Defiance.

**Any Further Offense:** The student will be suspended for repeated disobedience and will no longer be allowed to bring his/her device to school.

\*Students who don't cooperate with confiscation may face an additional referral for insubordination.

What if I can't get to the school to pick up the phone that was confiscated?

- Parents can notify the front office at (719)328-3800 and inform staff that another adult, 18 years or older, will pick up the phone from the main office. The phone will not be given back to the student after the third offense. (See progressive discipline model)

What if another student accesses my student's cell phone during school hours?

- Students are responsible for what belongs to them. The student who used the cell phone and the student whose cell phone was used would both be in violation of the cell phone policy and be subject to the progressive discipline model.

What if my student has a documented medical need requiring they have a cell phone on them?

- A student who has a health plan on file with the school nurse stating that a cell phone is used to monitor a diagnosed health need is a legitimate reason for a student to have their phone on them at all times. Please consult with our school nurse if your student falls into this category. The nurse will make sure all appropriate staff are aware of the documented need. Students who have this accommodation and use their cell phone for any other purpose will follow a similar progressive disciplinary plan.

What is defined as using a cell phone?

- Any viewing or use of a cell phone between the first bell at 8:38 and the final bell at 3:45. It is important that students understand not to put themselves in the position of a staff member suspecting them of viewing their phone. It is one thing for a student to accidentally have it fall out of their bag or locker, pick it up, and place it back in the locker. This is different than a student who appears to be or is actually using it. Long story short...don't put yourself in a position where it looks like you are using it. Students who put it away when entering the building, keep it in their locker during the day, and don't access it until after 3:45pm will have no issues with this policy.

What if my cell phone is stolen?

- Colorado Springs School District 11 is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal devices brought to school. Students are issued individual lockers at the beginning of each school year. Please stress with your student the importance of not giving the combination to other people in order to keep their personal belongings safe.

What devices fall under this policy?

- Cell phones, watches with cell phone capabilities, any device that can act like a cell phone with text and online features.
  - We have everything students need to complete their work in the school.

If you have any further questions regarding this policy, please contact your grade level administrator, Alisa Snelson, Assistant Principal, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade gold core, Yann Ulrich, Assistant Principal, 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 6<sup>th</sup> grade green core, or Principal, Tony Karr.