

## **FAQ – Cell Phone Policy**

### **What is the rationale for students not having access to their phones during the school day, to include 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)328-2300. 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)328-2300. 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)328-2300. We have office assistants or security officers (depending on the sensitivity of the message), who can deliver a message.
- Students may be called to the office if you need to speak to them directly.

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

- Students with a documented need to have their phone on them from a licensed professional will be permitted to have their phone, including students with needs documented on an IEP. The phone may be used for academic purpose only with documents support.

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

- Once the first bell has rung to start the day, 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 if my student needs to call me during the school day?**

- Students may request permission from their classroom teacher to go to the office to make a phone call.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** - The phone will be confiscated by a staff member. The student can pick up his/her phone in the office after 3:45pm

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – The phone will be confiscated by a staff member. The student can pick up his/her phone in the office after 3:45pm, and parent notification is made by office staff.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – A parent or parent designee over 18 years old must pick up the phone in the office.

**4<sup>th</sup> Offense** - In school suspension (1 day) for repeated disobedience. Parent or parent designee over 18 years old must pick up the phone in the office.

**5<sup>th</sup> Offense** - In school suspension (2 days) for repeated disobedience. Parent or parent designee over 18 years old must pick up the phone in the office.

**6<sup>th</sup> Offense** - Out of school suspension (2-day minimum) for repeated policy infractions. Parent or parent designee over 18 years old must pick up the phone in the office.

**\*All students have had practice under the new cell phone policy from February 15 – February 23, 2019 with verbal warnings and without consequences.**

**\*\*Any cell phone usage that is determined to have taken place during school hours, even after the fact, will be enforced by the progressive discipline model.**

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

- Parents can send another adult, 18 years or older, to pick up the phone from the main office. The phone will not be given back to the student on the 3<sup>rd</sup> time for the same infraction. (See progressive discipline model)

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

- Students are responsible for their own possessions. 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.
- Lockers are provided to all students for maintaining personal items. Students are strongly advised to keep their lockers locked at all times and to not share lockers with other students.

### **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 (phone calls, texting, social media, etc.) between the time a student walks into the building and leaves the building. It is important that students understand not to put themselves in the position where a staff member suspects 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 who is actually

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 outside the building 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 lockers at the beginning of each school year. Please stress with your student the importance of not giving their locker combination to other people or sharing their locker 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, including access to technology on their iPads.