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## RE: Cell Phone Policy

To all North MS families,

As indicated in the May newsletter, North is joining all other D11 middle schools to implement a cell phone and electronics policy beginning August 1 of this year. Please read the following FAQs thoroughly before contacting the school office with any questions.

### CELL PHONE POLICY FAQs

- ❖ **What is the rationale for not allowing students access to their phones during the school day, to include lunch and passing periods?**
  - Social-emotional health:
    - Prioritizing school as a distraction free place for learning.
    - Removing the temptation for students to constantly check their phones instead of having their undivided attention focused on learning.
  - Cyber-bullying:
    - Eliminating the opportunity for students to be victimized by others taking pictures and videos of them 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 growing 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?**
  - Call the main office at (719)328-2400 and we will get the message to your student(s).
- ❖ **What if I need to text my student something important during the day?**
  - Call the main office at (719)328-2400 and we will get the message to your student(s). You are welcome to still text them, knowing they will not get the message until they leave the school building.
- ❖ **How do I reach my student for a personal emergency?**
  - Please call the main office at (719)328-2400. Depending on the sensitivity of the message, we have office personnel or security officers to deliver the message.
  - If you need to speak to your student directly, we can have your student return your call from their classroom or come to the office to make the call.

❖ **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 phones, including students with needs documented on an IEP. The phone may be used for academic purposes only. *Students with this accommodation who use their cell phone for any other purpose will follow a similar progressive disciplinary plan as outlined further on in this letter.*

❖ **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 the 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 with this accommodation who use their cell phone for any other purpose will follow a similar progressive disciplinary plan as outlined further on in this letter.*

❖ **When *can* a student access his/her cell phone at school?**

- Students may access their phones *before* they enter the school building *in the morning* and *after* they leave the building (3:50pm). *While students are on their way to or from their lockers phones must be kept in a pocket or backpack (not seen, not heard).* They will be able to use their phones once they are out of the building.

❖ **What if my student needs to call me during the school day?**

- Students may request permission from their teacher to use the classroom phone or 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 may pick up his/her phone in the office after 3:50pm
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – The phone will be confiscated by a staff member. The student may pick up his/her phone in the office after 3:50pm, 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.

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

❖ **What defines “using a cell phone”?**

- Cell phone use is defined as any viewing or use of a cell phone (phone calls, texting, social media, etc.) between the time a student enters the building and the time he/she leaves the building. Students should avoid the appearance of cell phone use. It is one thing for a student to have the phone accidentally fall out of their bag or locker and they pick it up and place it back in place. It is a completely different situation when a student appears to be actually using the phone. Students who put their phones away when entering the building, keep them in the locker during the day, and don't access them until after they have left the building will have no issues with this policy.

**What devices fall under this policy?**

- For this policy, the term “cell phone” refers to any device that can act like a cell phone with voice, text and/or online features. This includes but is not limited to cell phones, watches with cell phone capabilities, tablets, etc.

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

- Parents may 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 after the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense. *(See progressive discipline model)*

**❖ What if another student uses my student's cell phone during school hours?**

- Students are responsible for their own possessions. 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.* Therefore, *both* the student who used the cell phone *and* the student whose cell phone was used would be in violation of the cell phone policy and subject to the progressive discipline model.

**What if my student's 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 happens when my student needs to use the cell phone in class?**

- We have everything students need to complete their work in the school.