

Ridgeview High School

Cell Phone Policy

OUR 'WHY'

We CARE about Learning!

We care about our students' learning. Research is clear that students who are distracted learn less. Even the presence of a student's phone causes students to fracture their attention between learning and social hyper-responsiveness.

We CARE about students' Well-Being!

We care about our students' mental health and emotional well-being. We have the opportunity to make classrooms free of social competition, put downs, and online harassment. Students cannot participate fully in learning if they feel pressured, judged, or socially anxious.

OUR EXPECTATION

Student phones will be off and away from bell to bell. Students may access their phones before school, during passing times, at lunch, and after school. This policy uses 'phone' throughout. It includes any personal electronic device not issued by the school (ipod, MP3, headphones, smartwatch, game devices, etc.).

To be successful: All teachers agree to uphold this expectation. 'Teacher discretion' is not successful in creating a consistent cell phone policy. Inconsistency among teachers will result in student and parent confusion, and division among colleagues.

OUR PRACTICE

All classrooms will have a cell phone wall organizer. The organizer will be in a space easily monitored by the teacher. Teachers will invite and encourage students to use their assigned numbered pocket to store their phones safely during class. This helps students reduce the inclination to access their phones, which will result in disciplinary action. Students may also leave their phones in their purse or backpack. Phones, headphones or any other device should not be visible during class. Teachers will highly encourage students to not leave their phones 'on their person', as this makes accessing the phone a temptation.

If a student accesses his/her phone during class time, the following will occur:

- Teacher will instruct the student to report to the Student Management Office (SMO).
- Teacher will email parent or notify via ParentVue (and cc Dean of Students) by end of day to inform that the student violated our phone policy.
- Student will deliver the powered-off phone to SMO.
- Student will call parent from SMO to notify of violation and invite parent to retrieve phone.
- Parent may pick up the phone at any time.
- If student refuses to report to SMO or to deliver the phone per policy, the student will be suspended out of school the following day.
- If a student violates the policy but with another student's phone, the same process and consequences apply to the student in possession of the phone.

OUR COMMITMENT

Parents and students will sign an acknowledgement that they have been notified about the policy. This will clearly outline student and parent responsibility related to these expectations.

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FAQs

What if a student is on their phone/electronics during class time in the hallway?

- Teachers are not expected to monitor the hallways while teaching. This aspect of enforcement will be the responsibility of administration. Teachers are not expected to monitor hallways during their prep period. However, teachers on prep are encouraged to remind students in the halls about the expectation and direct them to SMO.

What is the expectation when a student requests a pass (restroom, Counselor)?

- Teachers should encourage students to use the cell phone wall organizer, and remind students of the length of time expected for restroom passes.

If I am failing to uphold this policy, can this be reflected in a negative manner in my drop-in observations and summative evaluation?

- Yes. Everyone is expected to enforce this school-wide policy, and Domain 2 supports this understanding.

Shouldn't we be teaching students about digital citizenship?

- That is part of the intended outcome of this policy. We are teaching students that there are times when the use of electronics is appropriate (before and after school, at lunch, during passing times/breaks) and there are times when it is not (class time). Students will also have the opportunity to learn digital citizenship through their access to district-issued student devices, such as Chromebooks.

What about TAs?

- The same expectation applies to all students in the building.

What if I have a legitimate educational reason for students to use cell phones?

- District-issued student devices have most of the same capabilities as a phone. Teachers are asked to plan ahead and replace any activity that requires a phone with one that can be accomplished on a Chromebook.

What about when students are done with tests or the last few minutes before class ends and they are simply waiting for the bell to ring- can they be on cell phones then?

- No. In order to maintain consistency, the policy applies "bell to bell" in all classrooms. We encourage students to edit their work, assist others, read, etc.

What if a student's phone sounds when put away in their backpack or purse?

- This constitutes accessing the phone in order to turn it off. This will be a hard lesson, but likely only happen once to a student.

What if a student's phone sounds when it is in the cell phone wall organizer?

- Allow the student to turn the phone off without consequence. This will encourage students to use the organizer.

Why do teachers need to notify parents when a student violates the policy?

- This is an important part of our initial, united messaging. We will review this portion of the policy at the end of first trimester to determine if it is necessary.