



# Constellation Schools

Parma Community Middle

*"The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children."*



## ELECTRONIC DEVICE / CELL PHONE POLICY



Ohio House Bill 250, signed into law on May 20, 2024, requires all Ohio school districts to create policies regarding cell phone usage during school hours, effective July 2025. To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board of Education of Parma Community has determined that the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited. The law aims to minimize distractions in classrooms and limit student cell phone use during the school day. This will also include the use of smartwatches, earbuds, and any other electronic devices. Please refer to the complete School Policy 4.2170, which is available on our website at [www.constellationschools.com](http://www.constellationschools.com).

The objective of this policy is to strengthen Parma Community's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

### ***I. Research***

Research shows that students' use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

### ***II. Applicability***

This policy applies to the use of cell phones or other electronic devices by students while on school property during school hours.

### ***III. Use of cell phones and other electronic devices***

Students are prohibited from using cell phones or other electronic devices at all times.

### ***IV. Exception***

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone or device for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under Section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern with administration approval.



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### ***V. Cell phone /Device storage***

Students shall keep their cell phones or other electronic devices in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

### ***VI. Discipline***

If a student violates this policy, the administrator shall take the following progressive disciplinary measures:

#### **1. Verbal Warning**

- a. The student will be required to give the device to the teacher/administrator to store in the appropriate storage unit. A locker or a backpack will not be an option to store items if taken during the school day. The device will be given back at the end of the day.

#### **2. 1st Offense**

- a. Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office, and the administrator will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up.

#### **3. 2nd Offense**

- a. Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office, and the administrator will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up.
- b. The student will be issued a detention for violation of school policy. The detention can be served after school on M-Th from 2:45 - 3:25 pm. Failure to serve may result in further disciplinary action.

#### **4. 3rd Offense**

- a. Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office, and the administrator will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up.
- b. The student will be issued one day of in-school suspension for violation of school policy. Date to be determined by the administrator and will be communicated to student and parent/guardian.
  - i. Student will be responsible during their ISA time to write an essay on the importance of following rules and expectations.
    1. Failure to serve or complete the required task may result in further disciplinary action.

#### **5. 4th Offense**

- a. Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office, and the administrator will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up.



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- b. A mandatory conference will be scheduled to discuss the student's cell phone/electronic use.
  - i. If a phone needs to be with the student at school, they will be required to turn it into the administration daily for the remainder of the quarter. Device will be given back to student at the end of the school day.

If families need to reach the students during the school day, **family members are to call the school**, and our office managers will relay the messages to teachers and students. In the event of an emergency, Constellation Schools have protocols in place (such as School Messenger and Class Dojo) to contact all families at once. For a specific concern related to your child, the school will call you directly.

We are excited to continue our focus on academics and socioemotional learning, which will continue to contribute to a positive school environment in which these attributes are the main focus, along with safety. Please note that because this is a mandate from the State of Ohio (House Bill 250) and a board-approved policy, it is non-negotiable, and we ask that you, as parents and guardians, continue to show support in making sure students follow these mandates so they can focus on their education.

Thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly excited for this upcoming year, and we are grateful for allowing us the opportunity to work with your students.

### PCMS Administration and School Faculty

*Kristina Scott*

Kristina Scott

Middle School Principal

Eric Butler, M.Ed. - Interim Executive Principal,

*Todd Blain*

Todd Blain - HS Assistant Principal,

*Andrea Rosewell*

Andrea Rosewell - HS Assistant Principal

Bob Klinar - Executive Principal, Parma Community Schools