Constellation Schools

Parma Community Middle/High School

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

School Policy 4.2170 (Student Cellular Phones in School) **mandates** that cell phone use during school hours be as limited as possible, requiring devices to be silenced and stored out of view per **Ohio House Bill 250**. 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. We are committed to providing an environment where students can fully engage with their classmates, teachers, and instruction without distraction.

Parma Community Middle and High School has implemented the following policies and procedures regarding student electronics:

Students are prohibited from using cell phones or other electronic devices (headphones; apple watches; ear buds) at all times.
(exception: student has documented IEP (Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code) or 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 USC. 794) accommodation outlining the use of electronic device to monitor health concern)

1. Students will be **required** to keep their cell phones or other electronic devices in a secure place, such as the student's assigned cell phone locker (High School) or homeroom storage device (Middle School). They will be placed in these locations **at the start of the school day and retrieved at the end of the day.**

2. 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 message 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.

The next page outlines our progressive discipline for violating the cell phone policy.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child's education.

Violation of state-mandated cell phone policy:

If your student is found in violation of the set forth policy, administration will take necessary progressive discipline steps. These steps are outlined below:

Middle School (7th and 8th Grade Students)

1. **Verbal Warning**: The student will be required to give the device to the teacher/administrator to store in the appropriate storage unit. The device will be given back at the end of the day.
2. **1st Offense:** Cell phone is given to the administrator and they will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up.
3. **2nd Offense:** Cell phone is given to the administrator and they will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up. The student will be issued a detention for violation of school policy.
4. **3rd Offense:** Cell phone is given to the administrator and they will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up. The student will be issued one day of in-school suspension for violation of school policy.
5. **4th Offense:** Cell phone is given to the administrator and they will notify the parent/guardian of the violation and arrange when the device can be picked up. A mandatory conference will

High School (9th-12th Grade Students)

1. Confiscation (placed in cell phone locker)

2. Confiscation (placed in cell phone locker) **plus** detention

3. Confiscation (placed in cell phone locker) **plus** 1 day ISA

4. Parent meeting