

Cell Phone Policy – revised

Mardela Middle and High School strives to ensure that student achievement is our primary focus.

Unfortunately, we have found that cell phones and electronic devices have become increasingly disruptive to the school day. Cell phones have taken a large amount of teacher and administrative time because the general culture has them in use 24 hours a day. The students have been unable to make that break from being technologically connected to focus on instruction during the school day. **When we suggest to parents to check the cell phone and texting usage during school time, they are often surprised by the results.** During instruction, students will text message, send inappropriate content and pictures, and listen to music. In the unstructured times in the hallways they begin rumors, arrange altercations, take pictures, and make phone calls. When staff members have asked students to put the devices away, they are often met with rude comments or insubordination.

This sense of entitlement that they are allowed to use the electronic devices is fueled by culture and the media. **This must stop during the school day. Use of cell phones is** unacceptable and in violation of Board of Education Policy. **The BOE policy states that cell phone are to be turned off and placed in the student's locker or be left in the vehicle. Middle school students are not permitted to bring cell phones to school.** All cell phones, electronic devices and accessories that are seen will be confiscated. We are holding grade level assemblies opening week to discuss the enforcement of the cell phone/electronics policy and the clear expectations for students.

Students are expected to turn off and store their cell phones, electronic devices, and earphones **prior to entering their** first period class until the final bell at 3 PM. They cannot have the cell phones or electronic devices out for any reason. They will not be allowed to use them as watches or calculators in class. If a student makes the poor decision to bring out the cell or electronic device, it will be confiscated and stored in the school office. **The item will be available for pick up by a parent between the hours of 8 am and 4 PM on Wednesdays only.** A referral will be written documenting cell phone or electronics violation. Repeated violations of the cell phone/electronics policy will result in progressive discipline action steps. A student's refusal to hand over the device when asked will result in suspension for insubordination.

If you need to get in touch with your child for emergency reasons, you can call the school office at 410-677-5142 and we will get the message to your student quickly. The office staff will only take **non-emergency** messages for your student if it involves how they are to get home that day. **If your child is sick, the school nurse will contact you.** **Other** non-emergency information that you need to get to your student should be left on their cell phones which they may check after school.

Our goal is to help your child achieve to the best of his or her ability. We ask for your assistance to diminish as many disruptions to instruction as possible.