

USE OF ELECTRONICS

Middle school is a formative time in students' lives when social skills are developed. We want to encourage interactions between peers without the use of an electronic. Raiders will enjoy an electronic-free environment while at school. The use of cell phones or other electronics, texting or taking pictures during the instructional day (8:15-2:50) will not be allowed.

The following are our school guidelines on cellphones and electronics:

- If an electronic must be brought to school for afterschool needs, it must be left in the student's locker on silent. The cell phone can not be brought to class or be left on the student.
- Under no circumstances will students be allowed to take pictures and/or videos; nor will they be allowed to post any information, pictures and/or videos to public internet sites.
- Teachers will use technology to enhance instruction, using the technology available at our school.
- **Students wishing to contact parents during the school day must do so in the school office. Parents wishing to contact their child during the school day must contact the school office directly.**

If a student is found to be in violation of the standards above, the following consequences will apply:

- **First violation:** cell phone/device left in the office and returned at the end of the day. Note sent home to parent/guardian.
- **Second violation:** cell phone/device held in the school office to be picked up by parent/guardian. Official warning of suspension from school.
- **Third violation:** cell phone/device held in the school office to be picked up by parent/guardian. Student suspended from school for defiance of school rules.

Thank you for supporting this policy. We want the best for our students and believe that authentic connections between peers happens best when students are learning to communicate directly in a safe environment.

"Despite all the benefits, the negative impact of phones on social skills is evident. Phones only provide temporary satisfaction immediately after usage and they can actually increase loneliness and depression. They also allow people to avoid social interactions. Many times, phones can be used as protection or as a "security blanket" to help temporarily tame anxiety, stress, or loneliness in social situations. This can be seen as helpful to users since they have potentially avoided social anxiety or an unwanted interaction. This, however, is counterproductive as humans are meant to be social creatures. Being social can improve one's mental and even physical health" (Shrotriya, accessed online <https://childrensinnovationcenter.org/the-effect-phones-have-on-adolescents-social-skills>)