

Class Cell Phone Policy

3-D Design

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Dear Parents & Families,

As you know, most students come to school with cell phones; in today's world, it can be a powerful tool. However, the use of cell phones/electronic devices during class have become a power struggle between student and instructor, which begs me to ask the question, "*How can I enhance a learning environment without the confrontation of phone usage during class?*"

Over the past years, I have tried compromising, allowing students to keep their phones; for music, researching images when necessary, or making/accepting an "important" text. Unfortunately, the privilege eventually turns into disrespect for the classroom rules and policies. Most students cannot handle the temptation to check their phone, especially if it involves social media. Phones that ring or vibrate disrupt the class.

Examples of disrespect have included:

- Watching videos (*YouTube*/TV shows/movies) on their phones, instead of working.
- Playing games.
- Checking their *Facebook/social media* accounts in the middle of class.
- SnapChatting* or texting friends in other classes.
- Videoining other students in class (not their friends) and then sending it out to their contacts or social media. **(This is a form of bullying and harassment.)**
- Making/accepting phone calls in the middle of class without asking permission.
- Texting during instruction or demonstrations, then complaining that they don't understand the instructions for the project.
- Taking over 5 minutes to choose a song and wasting time repeatedly changing their music choice.
- Wearing and using their earbuds while the teacher is talking/giving demonstrations/working on group activities/taking quiz or test.
- When asked to hand over their phone because of violating the policy, blatant refusal to comply accompanied by cursing to emphasize their indignation or muttering under their breath.
- Having to be sent to the office because they refused to hand over their phone (*thus, they miss time to learn*).

For these reasons, I have a strict class cell phone policy. I do not allowing phones to be used during class time, unless I have explicitly asked them to.

- If a student chooses to use their phone/electronic device, it will be confiscated and placed in a clear plastic pocket chart next to the teacher's desk, for the duration of class. The student will also lose Studio Habit points for the day. The cell phone will be returned at the end of class when the bell rings. (This will be the same consequence if the student is found listening to music, checking their phone, texting, etc.)
- If the student argues and refuses to comply, the student will be sent to the office and/or the phone will be given to the Assistant Principals in the office.

- **If this becomes a frequent violation**, the phone will be handed over to the Assistant Principal, where the student will need to retrieve it from at the end of the school day. A referral will also be written. No warnings will be issued.

Cell phone/electronic devices should be put away before class starts, including earbuds. The devices shouldn't be visible. If they arrive to class wearing their earbuds, Ms. J will ask them to be removed.

Only when the teacher has asked the student to use their phone for a specific purpose, should the device be out. (For example, taking a photo of their completed project for their end-of-the-year digital portfolio.)

Parents & Families, I ask that you support these policies in order to help maintain a safe and conducive learning environment. **If the student doesn't agree to the terms, they can opt out by choosing to NOT bring any electronic devices into the classroom.**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*A note about parental contact: Many times I've had students tell me they are "texting their mom" or someone is at school to pick them up. Students should not be released from the classroom without following office protocol. Failure on my part to follow these policies would be irresponsible and jeopardize the safety of the students.