

Eugene Brooks Intermediate School

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Dear Parents and Caregivers:

This letter is to inform you about some of the concerns we encountered with student cell phone use during the school year and to ask for your help in addressing these concerns. Personal data devices such as cell phones can be used for instructional purposes with teacher supervision. However, student cell phone use is often a distraction and disruptive during the school day. For example, there were 26 incidents at EBIS involving cell phone communication over social media platforms that resulted in direct administrative action; the number at the high school was nearly twice that amount. Students engage in inappropriate conversations over various social media apps; those conversations resulted in fights, arguments, and other disruptions to the school day.

We understand that parents/caregivers want the ability to contact their child during the school day. We encourage all parents/caregivers to contact their child via the main office at each building to help avoid disruptions during instructional periods.

The following is a detailed overview of the expectations for cell phone use in both the intermediate school and high school. Many of the expectations and guidelines for student cell phone use are the same for both buildings. However, there are some differences that we want to make parents/caregivers and students aware of. These differences are based on the age appropriate use of electronic devices in educational settings and the maturity level of the students in each building.

EBIS Student Cell Phone Guidelines and Procedures

- Electronic communication/entertainment devices (iPods, Cell Phones, Cameras, and Tablets, Apples Watches, or other e-wearable devices, etc.) may not interfere with the academic environment.
- These devices for students in grades 4-8 should be off and placed securely in their lockers each day.
- Students in grades 4-8 may use headphones/earbuds under the direction of a classroom teacher when applicable.
- It is at the discretion of the teacher to collect devices if the guidelines are not followed.

WHS Student Cell Phone Guidelines and Procedures

- Electronic communication/entertainment devices (iPods, Cell Phones, Cameras, and Tablets, Apples Watches, or other e-wearable devices, etc.) may not interfere with the academic environment.
- These devices for students in grades 9-12 may be used between class periods and during lunch.
- Devices should only be used during instructional/academic periods when given explicit permission and direction from classroom teachers.
- Study halls are also considered instructional/academic periods, and as such these devices should only be used with explicit approval of the teacher.
- It is at the discretion of the teacher to collect devices if the guidelines are not followed.

Infractions will result in disciplinary action. Failure to follow this rule can result in:

- 1) First Offense – *verbal warning is given by the teacher. Notice in the form of a referral will be sent home to parent or guardian.*
- 2) Second Offense – *confiscation of the electronic device for the remainder of the class or school day. The student may pick up the device from the teacher or main office at the end of the specific class or school day. Notice in the form of a referral will be sent to the parent or guardian.*
- 3) Third Offense – *Confiscation of the electronic device and detention for insubordination. Students who have had 3 offenses will then be required to turn the device into the main office at the start of each school day or may be required to leave the device at home.*

Article for Reference:

[Surgeon General Warns That Social Media May Harm Children and Adolescents - The New York Times](#)

Respectfully,

Mr. Pascale and Mr. Knuschke