



## 2023-2024 UHS Cell Phone Expectations

### ***1. School Board Policy***

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*“A student may possess a cell phone on Board property, on school transportation and at school activities, provided that during school hours, the cell phone is silenced and concealed. Pursuant to **Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes**, “a student may not use a wireless communications device during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. A teacher shall designate an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time.” For purposes of this section, the designated area will be in the student’s backpack or purse, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Violations of the cell phone policy will be handled in accordance with the Code and may result in confiscation of said device. If the cell phone is used in a criminal act (such as sexting as outlined in Florida Statutes and the Code), the cell phone will be provided to law enforcement and the student may face criminal penalties.*

*The use of wireless communication devices is always prohibited during the school day (from the first morning bell to dismissal) unless expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Wireless communication devices include but are not limited to, cell phones and/or auxiliary/ancillary devices such as watches and ear buds. Students may not receive discipline if they use their cellphone and/or ancillary device(s) to monitor a health condition that is documented through medical records provided to the school including, but not limited to, an IEP, a Section 504 Plan or a Health Plan.*

*At no time shall OCPS be responsible for theft, loss or damage to cell phones or other electronic devices brought onto its property.*

*These standards apply to all students in the public schools of Orange County.”*



## **2. *Student Notification of Policy***

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- Enforcement of the School Board Cell Phone Policy will begin on the first day of school, August 10, 2023.
- All students will be given a grace period to adjust until September 5, 2023, when consequences for policy violations will begin
- During the grace period, any student observed in violation of the Cell Phone Policy will be given a verbal warning, provided a written copy of the policy, and sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the policy.
- Parents will receive a phone call on Friday of each week for any student who was warned (prior to September 5th) or had their cell phone confiscated (starting on September 5th) at any time that week.
- Parents will also receive communication from your child's teachers for any cell phone violations.

## **3. *Classroom Procedures***

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- Upon entry to the classroom, students shall place their backpacks and purses in the designated area defined by the classroom teacher after retrieving the needed materials for the day.
  - Cell phones and ancillary electronic devices will be in the bags and not in student's pockets.
    - If a student refuses to comply with teacher directions, the teacher will create a SmartPass notification to the discipline department and write the student a referral for classroom insubordination.
- The teacher shall provide written communication on the board or SMARTBoard as to the supplies needed for the day, which students will remove from their bags and take to their seats.
- Teachers may allow students to utilize cell phones only for explicit instructional purposes, at the direction and discretion of the teacher.
- Beginning on September 5, 2023 grace period, teachers will confiscate any cell phones or ancillary electronic devices that are visible/utilized within the classroom.
- Parents will receive communication from the teacher for cell phone violations via a phone call or TalkingPoints.



#### ***4. Cell Phone Policy Violations***

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- Any and confiscated cell phones are to be collected in Student Services
  - Students will be able to retrieve the device after the dismissal bell from Student Services. **Students are not to be let out of class early for this purpose.**
  - It is the responsibility of the student to go straight to Student Services to retrieve their devices. School buses will not be held for device pickup.
  - Parents may come at any time during the hours of 7:30am and 3:30pm to retrieve the devices for their student.
  - Students that fail to retrieve their device at the end of the school day may come the next day to retrieve their device.
  - Upon retrieval, the student will sign an acknowledgement indicating they retrieved their device.
- The first violation of the Cell Phone Policy will result in confiscation of the phone or ancillary electronic device and a parent/guardian contact.
- The second violation of the Cell Phone Policy will result in confiscation of the phone or ancillary electronic device, parent/guardian contact, a disciplinary referral, and detention.
- The third violation of the Cell Phone Policy will result in confiscation of the phone or ancillary electronic device, parent/guardian contact, a disciplinary referral, and PASS.
- The fourth violation of the Cell Phone Policy will result in confiscation of the phone or ancillary electronic device, parent/guardian contact, a disciplinary referral, and out of school suspension.
- Subsequent violations will result in continued confiscation of the cell phone and escalating consequences.

#### ***5. Additional Information***

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- Students may use cell phones prior to the first bell and after dismissal.
  - This means they must be off and out of sight in bags at 7:10 through dismissal each day.
- Students will not be precluded from using their cell phones to assist with a medical condition as defined on an IEP, 504 Plan, or Health Plan
  - Example: Glucose monitoring apps on phones



- Parents have the responsibility of ensuring that the school has appropriate documentation to support such usage.
- If a student needs to contact their parents, they are to be sent to Student Services on a “Cell Phone Pass” using SmartPass and they will be able to call home from the office.
  - Students cannot simply step out in the hallway
- If a parent needs to contact their child, they are advised to call the school and we will get the child similar to if a parent physically came to campus to speak with them.
  - Parents, a student is not exempt from these expectations simply because it is the parent calling.
- Our Administrative and Supervision Teams will follow the same cell phone confiscation procedures during class change and lunch as defined above for teachers.
- Parents should call 407-482-8700 any time student contact is needed. Parents may also physically come to campus to ask to speak with your child in person.