

Sacred Heart Catholic School

7th-12th Grade Cell Phone Policy Effective as of 12.4.2023

WHY ARE WE CHANGING OUR POLICY?

First and foremost, we want our students to be fully engaged with the staff and each other instead of spending every free second looking at screens. We want to eliminate the constant “waiting-for-the-bell-so-I-can-check-my-phone” focus of our students. We want to minimize distractions and reinvigorate our Sacred Heart family.

In addition, our 7th-12th grade students each have a school-issued iPad. Almost anything academic that would require the use of a cell phone can be completed using the iPad.

Finally, numerous studies show the negative impact of cell phone use on the mental health of teenagers. We want our students to have seven hours during the school day to be free from social media. The well-being of our students is our priority.

PROCEDURES

1. Students will turn in their phones to their teacher at the beginning of their first core class of the day. For 7th and 8th grade students, this will be Period 1. For 9th-12th grade students, this will be Period 2.
2. Each phone will be placed in an assigned spot in the class lockbox. The teacher will take the box to the designated spot in the main office area as time allows.
3. Each student will pick up his/her own phone from a designated spot in the hallway at the end of the day.

WHAT IF . . .

- . . . *I need to contact my parent about something I forgot at home, want someone to bring me lunch, need my mom to make me a hair appointment, forgot my jersey, don't know who is picking me up after school, etc.?* You will be able to access your email on your iPad. Parents will also be able to email you. Student email addresses are firstname-lastname@365.cdolinc.net. In emergency situations (you don't have your jersey and the bus is leaving in 15 minutes), you may ask to use office phone.
- . . . *I have a grandparent who is having surgery, and I want to be updated throughout the day?* Visit with Mrs. Dunn about this. We will arrange for you to have your phone for updates.
- . . . *I am leaving early for an appointment?* You may ask a staff member to get your phone from the lockbox for you.
- . . . *I need it to log in to my college class?* We will work to set up multifactor authentication in another way. Until then, your proctor may need to retrieve your phone for you.
- . . . *I am sick and need to contact my parents to go home?* The office will contact your parent for you as they normally would.
- . . . *I need a picture off my phone for a class such as art?* You should email the needed picture to yourself so that you can access it on your iPad.
- . . . *I need to let my family know our basketball game is cancelled?* This would be a situation where a teacher may wish to get all class phones and have students text parents. In cases such as this, an AlertNow text will already be sent.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Parents needing to leave messages for students should contact students via their school email or call the school phone number. Please do not text staff members.
- Only staff members will retrieve phones from the lockboxes during the school day.
- Students are encouraged to turn phones in each day. If a student chooses to leave his or her phone at home or in a vehicle, he or she may do so. However, the student will not be allowed to wear a hooded sweatshirt or take a backpack into the classroom. On occasions when cellphones may be allowed at lunch, students will not be allowed to go to cars to retrieve phones.
- Students are encouraged to shut off phones before turning in to teacher. If not off, they must be silenced.
- Smartwatches will be turned in at the same time as phones.

CONSEQUENCES

- Failure to silence your phone, requiring a staff member to come and get you to do so later in the day, will result in a detention.
- Parents of any student who chooses not to follow the policy (ex. turning in a fake phone, not turning in a phone claiming to leave it in a vehicle or at home and then caught using the phone, wearing a smartwatch, etc.) will be contacted to arrange retrieval of phone. The student will earn the following disciplinary action:
- First violation: A \$25 fine will be required to be paid. Student will serve a detention.
- Second violation: A \$50 fine will be required to be paid. Student will serve two detentions.
- Third violation: A \$100 fine will be required to be paid. Student will serve one day of in-school suspension.
- Additional violations: Parents, student, and administration will meet to determine the best course of action to assist the student in adherence to this policy.