

Cell Phone Policy for Secondary Schools

Students who bring cell phones to school are to keep their phones silenced and in their bookbags during all instructional periods during the school day. Teachers may ask students to put their phones in their bookbags and move the bookbags to a place in the same classroom where the bookbag and the phone are not within the reach of the students when the students are seated for class. In the event of a lockdown or evacuation, or during lockdown or evacuation drills, teachers will allow students to retrieve their phones and keep them on their person during the emergency response protocol. However, students must comply with directives on when they may use their phones and when they need to have them silenced and concealed.

Students may use their cell phones before and after school, during class changes, and during their lunch periods. Cell phones are to be silenced and placed in the student's bookbag immediately upon entering a classroom or the media center. Students may not use their cell phones during class time unless the faculty member providing direct supervision gives the students specific permission to use their cell phones. Students are not permitted to take their cell phones out of the classroom during instructional periods unless given permission by their teacher or an administrator.

Cell phones used in the following manners will result in disciplinary consequences for the student:

- Unauthorized possession and/or use during class time
- Possessing cell phone during tests, examinations, or experiential learning activities
- Unauthorized recording (audio or video) of a person or a setting where there is an expectation of privacy
- Communicating messages that promote hatred, instigate violence, harass, or otherwise diminish or antagonize students or staff members
- Using a cell phone in any other violation of the student code of conduct

Students who violate the cell phone policy will be expected to give their cell phones to a teacher or administrator, and the cell phone will be secured in the office until the end of the school day. Students who do not turnover their cell phones to school administrators will be suspended for insubordination.

First Violation – student may remain in classes; parent/guardian will be contacted and made aware of the violation; student may pick up the cell phone no sooner than 15 minutes before the end of the school day.

Second Violation – student will receive in-school suspension; parent/guardian must pick up the cell phone at the school no sooner than the end of the school day; parent/guardian will be asked to sign an acknowledgement of the cell phone policy and the violation.

Third and Subsequent Violations – student will receive in-school suspension for the remainder of the day; student will be suspended from school for up to 2 more days; parent/guardian must pick up the cell phone at the school no sooner than the end of the day.

Adopted: by the Bristol Virginia School Board on February 5, 2024.