

Pymatuning Valley Local School District Cell Phone Policy

I. Purpose

Research shows that student use of cellphones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by Pymatuning Valley Local School students while on school property during school hours.

III. Exception

Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794.

A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern.

IV. Pymatuning Valley High School Policy Details

1. Classroom Procedures:

- Upon entering the classroom, students must place their cell phones in designated classroom cell phone holders.
- Students may only retrieve their cell phones during the instructional period with explicit permission from the teacher.

2. Non-Instructional Times:

- Students are permitted to use their cell phones between classes and during lunch periods.

3. Study Hall Privilege:

- Students must maintain a passing grade in all classes to be eligible to use their cell phones during study hall.

4. Consequences for Violations:

- First Offense: Verbal warning from the teacher.
- Second Offense: Phone will be confiscated for the day and an SMR will be issued.
- Third Offense: Student will be assigned school community service.
- Subsequent Offenses: Administration will administer in-school suspension.

5. Policy Adjustments:

- The school board reserves the right to adjust this policy as necessary.

6. Implementation

- Teacher Responsibilities: Ensure that students place their phones in the holders at the beginning of the class and monitor compliance. Report any violations according to the outlined consequences.

- Student Responsibilities: Follow the procedures for cell phone use, respect the learning environment, and adhere to the consequences if violations occur.

V. Pymatuning Valley Primary and Middle School Policy Details

A. Cell phone policy

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker, a closed backpack, or a storage device provided by the district, at all times when cell phone use is prohibited.

B. Consequences

- First Offense: Verbal warning from the teacher.
- Second Offense: Phone will be confiscated for the day and the student's guardian must pick up the phone from the administrator.
- Third Offense: Student will be assigned school community service.
- Subsequent Offenses: Administration will administer in-school suspension.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to foster a productive educational atmosphere that minimizes distractions and encourages academic success.