

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we would like to inform you of our updated student personal electronic device policy. This policy is designed to comply with Tennessee state law and to promote a safe, focused, and productive learning environment for all students.

Cell Phone Policy

Students are **not permitted to use cell phones during the instructional day, from 7:45 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.** Upon arriving on campus, all cell phones must be **powered off** and securely stored in the student's backpack or purse. Cell phones should remain powered off and out of sight until dismissal. If a student accesses a cell phone or other personal electronic device, it will be confiscated and stored in the MSHS front office. A parent or guardian will be required to pick up the device at the end of the day.

In addition to cell phones, the following personal electronic devices are **not permitted for use during the school day**:

- Smartwatches
- Personal tablets (including iPads or similar devices)
- Handheld gaming devices
- Headphones or earbuds of any kind, including both over-the-ear and in-ear styles

Students enrolled in courses requiring audio for online instruction will be provided time to use **wired headphones**, which are the only headphones permitted for instructional purposes.

Why This Policy Matters

Research and classroom experience consistently demonstrate that personal electronic devices can significantly distract students from learning. Notifications, messaging, social media, games, and other digital interruptions reduce students' ability to concentrate, participate in class, and engage meaningfully with teachers and peers. By eliminating these distractions during the school day, we can better support academic achievement, encourage positive social interaction, and foster a learning environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed.

Communication During the School Day

If a parent or guardian needs to contact a student during school hours, or if a student needs to reach home, Mrs. Wallick or another staff member in the front office will gladly assist. The school office telephone is available for emergencies and other urgent situations.

In the event of a campus-wide emergency, parents and guardians will receive timely updates through the **FACTS Parent Alert System**. This system is our official method of communicating important safety information and school-wide notifications.

We appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain a learning environment where students can focus on instruction, build meaningful relationships, and reach their full academic potential. Your support in reinforcing these expectations at home will help ensure a smooth transition to the new policy and contribute to a successful school year for everyone.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact the school office.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Price
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