



Student Cell Phone Policy

Merit Preparatory Academy

References: Governor Cox's Letter to Schools and District Leaders, dated January 4, 2024

Purpose:

Merit Preparatory Academy encourages students to make engagement with lesson materials, teachers and peers a priority. We promote collaboration in the classroom and value moments of concentrated learning. While purposeful use of electronic resources can enhance student learning, personal electronic devices often create distractions in the classroom that limit potential learning opportunities for our students. In order to promote improved learning, limit distractions, increase student engagement and opportunities for human connection, and in accordance with the governor's request to remove cell phones from our classrooms, we hereby adopt this student cell phone policy for the benefit of our students and to support our staff.

Policy:

- Upon entering each classroom, students will silence and place their cell phones in a designated storage area, near the teacher and in full view of the students.
- Cell phones will remain in the storage area for the duration of the class period.
 - In the event of an emergency, students may discuss with the teacher the need to use their device, and at the discretion of the teacher, the device may be returned temporarily to the student to address the emergency situation. Immediately following the need, the cell phone will be returned to the storage area.
- Should the student fail to place their cell phone in the designated area upon entering the classroom, and the device is seen by the teacher anytime during class, the teacher will contact the office immediately and someone from the front office will come to the classroom to retrieve the phone. The device will be kept in the front office for the remainder of the day.
 - On the first offense, the student will be allowed to pick up their phone at the end of the day from the front office.
 - With the second offense, a student's parent or guardian will need to pick up the phone at the end of the day.
 - Should the student continue to violate the policy, a conference will be arranged between the administration and the student and his or her parent/guardian. A plan will be determined to help the student follow the policy.
- Students may use their personal electronic devices during the time between classes, at lunch and before and after school.