

CELL PHONES AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Charles County Public Schools allows the possession and use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices by students. It is the intent of the Superintendent, to ensure that this allowance does not disrupt the learning environment, after-school activities, or the safe transportation of students. Students are permitted to use cell phones while attending (but not participating in) general public events that occur after-hours and are open to the community. The following conditions outline the standard expectations for the possession and/or use of cell phones and electronic devices by students at school, on the bus or on other school-chartered vehicles:

Elementary School

- Students may only bring their phone or device, with a written request from the parent or guardian for a specific (non-social) purpose, and upon receipt of written approval from the principal.
- Once approved, student must keep their phone or device powered completely off (not on vibrate or silent mode) and inside their book-bag, locker or cubby throughout the entirety of each school day, unless other storage arrangements are made with the teacher.
- Once approved for school, students may use their phone or device on the bus or school-chartered vehicle, but use must not be disruptive or cause a distraction to the driver at any time; examples include: phone conversations, loud music, videos or electronic games.

Middle School

- Students may bring their phone or device but once school begins must keep them powered completely off (not on vibrate or silent mode) and remain in a non-visible, secure location throughout the entirety of each school day.
- Students may use their phone or device on the bus or school-charted vehicle, but it must not be disruptive or cause a distraction to the driver at any time; such as phone conversations, loud music, videos or electronic games.

High School

- Students may bring their phone or device but once school begins the device must be powered completely off (not on vibrate or silent mode) and must remain in a non-visible, secure location, with the exception of lunchtime or during an approved activity period.
 - Phones and devices may be used during approved times but must not be disruptive or serve any inappropriate purposes; such as loud/explicit music or videos, sending or posting inappropriate messages or images (via text or social media), or any type of cyberbullying.
 - At the end of the lunch or activity period, all phones and devices must be immediately powered back off and returned to a non-visible, secure location, until the end of the school day.

- Students may use their phone or device at the end of the school day for the purpose of making transportation arrangements as it relates to after-school activities or events.

Please note the following additional guidelines governing all school levels:

- Administrators and/or teachers may allow the use of cell phones or electronic devices during the school day for specific academic purposes; such opportunities will be communicated in advance.
- Students attending schools participating in “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) programs shall comply with the rules specific to that program, as defined by the school.
- Cell phones or electronic devices with camera and/or video functions must not be used to take or transmit any image or video at any time, even if the use of the phone or device is otherwise permitted.
- Violations of these expectations will result in consequences as specified in the Levels of Response section of this document.