

May 23, 2024

Maysville Public Schools Cell Phone Policy

Maysville Public Schools announces adopting a "No Cell Phone Policy" throughout the district for the 2024-2025 school year. This decision comes in response to a genuine concern for the well-being of our students and our commitment to fostering a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment.

Nationally and at Maysville Public Schools, we have been experiencing a concerning increase in cell phone violations over the past several years, including videotaping fights, cyberbullying, and other inappropriate activities perpetuated by cell phone misuse. Just last year, Maysville had roughly 100 incidents reported. The current cell phone policy does administer consequences for students. However, this has kept students from being on their phones. Such violations have significantly impacted the learning atmosphere, leading to over 50% of disciplinary actions directly associated with cell phone misuse.

Starting on the first day of school, Maysville Public Schools will require students who bring their phones to turn them off and securely store them in a named folder in the office. Students who need to contact a parent or guardian can report to the office, and personnel will assist them appropriately. Parents can contact their child(ren) through the school office.

Parents and guardians are encouraged to discuss the "No Cell Phone Policy" and its importance at home with their children. A collaborative effort between school and home will significantly contribute to the success of this policy and instill in our students the value of responsible technology use.

Education Week states, "Even when students are not using their cellphones in class, a mere jolt from a notification can capture the student's attention, taking up to 20 minutes to refocus." By not having this distraction, we believe that it will help students develop critical social and emotional skills, increase their educational experience, and lower discipline issues related to cell phones.

At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, every classroom within the district will be equipped with a phone. We know that your child's safety is your number one priority, and it is ours as well. If you have any questions, please contact the high school principal, Mrs. Krysti Kesler, or the elementary principal, Mr. John Edwards.

May 23, 2024

FAQs about the new policy

Q - Can my child use their phone before/after school?

A - Yes, the policy is in effect during the instructional day from 7:55 AM. to 3:00 PM.

Q - Can my child use their phone between classes at their locker?

A - No, students should keep their devices turned off and turned into the office during the school day, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Q - Will my child be able to text or communicate on their Smart Watch?

A - No, this policy covers all cellular phones and other wireless devices.

Q - Will my child be able to carry their phone in their backpack, purse, pocket, etc., during the day?

A—No. They will be assigned a folder to secure the device safely during the day.

Q - What if my child is ill or has an emergency?

A - Students will report to a teacher, administrator, counselor, or front office personnel, and they will assist them appropriately.

Q - Can my child use their AirPods, headphones, or earbuds?

A - Not generally, but exceptions will be made for educational purposes approved by the school administration.

Q - Can my child bring/use iPod, MP3, and other personal entertainment devices at school?

A - Not during the instructional day, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Q - Can my child use their phone/device to take photos or videos of people, places, or events during the school day?

A - No, the policies include all features of a cell phone.

Q - Can they use their devices during lunch?

A—The lunch period is considered part of the instructional day; therefore, the no-phone policy will be in place during lunch.

Q - What if I need to contact my child about a change in their pick-up routine, etc.?

A - Please contact the school office; they will deliver the message to the child.

Q - What about if there is a school emergency?

A - The school will communicate through our communication platforms. Please ensure your contact information is correct, and download the MPS school app.

Q- My child walks at lunch; what if I am concerned about where they are going?

A- Open campus is an option, and if there is a concern, please know that a bus takes students to the cafeteria during their lunch period.

Q- What about teachers being on their phones during class?

A- The policy applies to teachers as well. All teachers are equipped with a plan period if they need to make phone calls.

Q—If my child leaves for a school activity during the day, can they keep their phone?

A- No, the student will be issued their phone before they leave for their extracurricular event.