

FHPS Cell Phone Policy

“Forest Hills Public Schools is a learning organization. We continuously review research and our own practices in order to improve the educational experience for our students. Reviewing research on the use of cell phones by school-aged children has allowed us to reflect on how to best support our students as they learn and grow. It has become clear that excessive exposure to cell phones has a negative effect on school-aged children” (FHPS Summer Communication).

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, **students will not be allowed to carry or use cell phones during the school day.** Phones are available in our office should a student need to contact their parent/guardian. Additionally, if you need to get a message to your child, you can do that by calling the main office. **Per the new policy, we are STRONGLY encouraging families to NOT have their student bring a cell phone to NHMS.** If your family believes your child needs access to a cell phone before or after school, it will be the student's responsibility to ensure that their phone remains off and stored in their locker during the school day.

Expectations for Storage of Cell Phones (If brought to NHMS):

- Devices are **REQUIRED** to be powered off and stored inside your school bag inside your locker upon arrival to school and must stay off and in your school bag until the end of the school day.
- NHMS is not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen devices.
- Students are **NOT** allowed to carry/use their cell phone on them during the school day.

Consequences for misuse:

Should a student choose to violate the FHPS Cell Phone Policy the following will occur:

- **1st Offense:** Staff member secures the device and turns device into the Main Office. The student may pick up the device from the Main Office at the end of the school day. A notification will go home, and a signed form must be returned the following school day.
- **2nd Offense:** Staff member secures the device and turns device into the Main Office. A parent/guardian will be required to pick up the device from the Main Office.
- **3rd Offense:** Staff member secures the device and turns device into the Main Office. The student will receive disciplinary action which may include detention(s), social probation, or other consequences. A parent/guardian will be required to pick up the device from the Main Office.
- Additional offenses may result in loss of privilege of bringing a cell phone to school, additional school level consequences such as but not limited to detentions, and a parent/guardian meeting.
- *In all cases, we will work with students using Restorative Practices to support student growth in following the FHPS Cell Phone Policy.*