

June 22, 2015

To: Superintendent and School Board

RE: TECHNOLOGY DEVICES/ CELL PHONES USE IN SCHOOL

Who doesn't have a cell phone these days? The amazing thing about cell phones is that they are no longer just used for calling or texting. They have become an indispensable multi-tool wonder. Today's cell phone is cutting-edge technology at your fingertips. With this in mind, should students be permitted to use cell phones in school? I believe they should not just be permitted to use cell phones, they should be required to use them. Cell phones don't just allow students to stay connected with family and friends, they are also an excellent learning resource, and they encourage the responsible use of technology.

To begin with, cell phones make it possible for students to stay in touch with family and friends. A student can call home and ask a family member to bring them a forgotten assignment or lunch money or to come pick them up if they are sick. Also, cell phones allow parents to keep track of their children's whereabouts before, during, and after school. And, of course, there's always the possibility of a student needing to contact a parent because of a dangerous situation. Students can also connect with friends, but not just because it's a fun thing to do; the teacher can ask a student to text or email friends when they are absent to let them know what's going on in class and to inform them of any homework. When used responsibly, a cell phone can be an excellent communication tool.

Also, cell phones – especially smartphones - are a fabulous learning resource. Students can use tools such as the calculator, the map finder, and the calendar. Cell phones in Math and Geography and to keep track of homework. Teachers of science can allow the use of a smartphone to do research when doing group work or working on a project. For example, when studying ecology, researching local jobs having to do with protecting the environment. Plus there are lots of great learning websites – including essay-writing websites – can be used to supplement the learning in class. Cell phones are a quick and easy way to incorporate technology in the classroom. Finally, cell phones encourage the responsible use of technology. Students can learn when and how to use their cell phones to enhance their learning. They will become more independent in their work and more motivated to learn. Students like being allowed to make choices, and they understand consequences. If a student is texting when he/she should be paying attention to the teacher, the teacher should take the cell phone temporarily away. Before a test, all cell phones should be placed on the teacher's desk. By allowing the use of cell phones, students will feel like they are being treated like responsible young adults, and they will appreciate that. If teachers are patient, understanding, and consistent, students will surely become responsible users of technology.

In conclusion, people who oppose the use of the cell phone in school do it because of the disruptions and distractions it can cause. But we must accept that we live in a world of technology and that cell phones are an important and very useful part of that world. We miss out if we fail to take advantage of the educational power of the cell phone. All in all, cell phones improve communication, provide learning resources, and encourage appropriate use of technology. Teachers and administrators must find ways to incorporate this excellent multi-tool in our schools. Let's make the most of the day and age we are living in!

Respectfully submitted,

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Ms. Bowens

Mrs. Triplett