

October 6, 2009

Dear Parents,

I am writing to ask for your assistance with an important change in procedure for all students. We are currently reviewing all student conduct policies and procedures. We are also working to refine the procedures in ways that demonstrate respect for students as individuals while still maintaining order in the school. One aspect of the student conduct policy is the set of expectations for the use of cell phones in school.

We recognize that it is necessary for many students to carry cell phones to and from school in order to ensure consistent communication with parents or caretakers. The use of cell phones can, however, present a number of challenges in the school setting and often creates disruption to the educational process. In an effort to balance the needs of the students and the needs of the school, we are implementing the following policy.

Students are still strongly encouraged to leave cell phones in lockers for the day during school hours. However, students will now be allowed to carry cell phones with them during the day. All cell phones must be turned off upon getting on a school bus and should remain off until the student exits the bus at the end of the day. It is our view that cell phones in school are to be used in emergency situations only.

Students who choose to carry a cell phone with them during the day will be asked to place the phone in a basket upon entering each of their classes. At the end of the class period, the students may retrieve their phones and continue to their next class. Students are responsible for making sure that the phones are turned off. Any phone that rings during school time will be confiscated until the end of the day. If a student has a phone confiscated, he or she will be able to pick it up in the office at the end of the day. If a student repeatedly violates the cell phone policy, his or her phone will be confiscated and returned only to a parent.

Please keep in mind that the school is not responsible for student cell phones and that students who choose to carry their cell phones during the day must also take the responsibility that accompanies that decision. It is always our preference that students leave cell phones either at home or in lockers for the day. We believe that this change in policy reflects a realistic solution to an issue facing all schools today. We hope that you will support this change by discussing it with your children.

Please feel free to contact the school with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jason R. Kornegay