

VVS Middle School Cell Phone Policy

- Students may **NOT use** cell phones during the academic school day between 7:30 a.m. to 2:21 p.m. for any reason.
- There may be opportunities for students to use their cell phones during lunches.
- Students are expected to keep cell phones secured in a school or gym locker during the school day.
- If a student forgets their Chromebook, a cell phone is NOT a replacement option. They may get a loaner but that must be returned before the end of the day.
- Students using cell phones during the school day will have the cell phone confiscated until a parent is able to come to the school and retrieve the cell phone.
- Cell phones are not to be used to harass, cyberbully, make threats, defame, any student or staff member.
- Taking pictures/videos of any student or staff member without their consent or sharing video/photo of an altercation will result in an automatic out-of-school suspension (OSS).
- Repeat offenses will result in further disciplinary action.

The learning environment is a key factor in a student's ability to learn and engage with instruction. As such, the VVS Cell Phone policy is designed to minimize distraction and allow for students to learn in the best possible setting.

Research clearly shows that the number one distraction in the classroom (and in many workplaces) is a cell phone. Whether it is alerts, notifications, or the desire to connect with others, many people struggle with the urge to use cell phones and social media. We appreciate any and all parent support as we create an academic environment that teaches the importance of academic focus and models appropriate use of technology.

Cell phones can create a distraction for the students that can comprise their safety, both in emergencies and day-to-day as it relates to bullying and violence. School staff members are responsible for keeping students safe at school and school functions. Our staff members have received extensive training, so they are prepared in the event of emergency. Each classroom is equipped with phone and additional communication tool.