

# Let's talk about cell phones at JE High School

Principal Schermerhorn invites all high school stakeholders to a forum on the Distraction-Free Schools Policy for the 25-26 school year.

When: Thursday, July 31st

Time: 6pm

Location: High School Cafeteria

(Enter through the event's entry doors)

*To cultivate the best in personal growth and achievement*



# Tonight's Agenda

- Discuss the Governor's Distraction -Free Policy
- Inform you of data and “why” this policy was created
  - Discuss the expectations at JE High School
- Discuss options on how to communicate with your child during the school day
  - Open the floor for discussion





What the law requires:

From the first bell to the last, students in all K–12 public schools—including district schools, BOCES, and charter schools—must refrain from using any internet-enabled personal device during the entire school day. This includes class time, lunch, hallways, study halls, and recess.

(Devices include smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and similar gizmos capable of internet access.)

Schools design on-site storage systems based on their building and culture. Backpack storage is not allowed for compliance.



## What the law requires:

- Schools must offer clear methods for parents to contact students during the school day
- Device use must not lead to inequitable discipline.
- When devices are allowed: For a specific instructional purpose authorized by staff (teacher or administrator), to manage a documented health condition, to assist with translation services, and if allowed by a student's IEP or Section 504 plan



## What the research says:

Students perform better academically without phones during school hours

97% of 11 to 17 year olds unlock their phones during the school day;  
median use is 43 minutes (about one class period) and 13 pick-ups  
( *Education Week*)

Reduce anxiety and social pressure

Students receive on average 237 push notifications every day  
(*Education Week*)

Increase peer interaction and participation

38% of teens say they spend “too much” time on their phones  
(*Pew Research Center*)

Average Screen time for students between the ages of 13-17 is  
8 hours and 39 minutes per day ( *Common Sense Media*)

## What are JE high school's expectations?

- If students bring their devices to school, they will be collected when they arrive at school our single-point of entry through the north events doors.
- Devices will be handed in to a staff member in the events concession area and placed in a numbered storage sleeve. Each student will have their own number for their storage sleeve.
- Devices will be stored in this location from 7:35-2:45 pm and on Wednesday until 2:00 pm. At the conclusion of the school day, students will be dismissed by grade, two minutes apart, to pick-up their devices at the north events entry concession area.



What if students need to contact their parents or if parents need to contact their child?

- If a student must contact a parent, there will be phones designated for student use in the cafeteria, counseling office, health office and main office. In addition, all classrooms have a phone , if needed.
- Parents and students may also use email for communication.
- We'd ask to refrain from calling the main office if an email message will suffice.



## What this is not:

- Not a punishment — it's a support
- Not a ban on communication — we offer safe alternatives
- Not anti-technology — we promote digital citizenship and responsible use in the right context



## Student Management:

After the first week of school, if a student is found in possession of a device by a staff member the student will be asked to report to the main office where the device will be turned over to administration for the remainder of the day.

The student will not have their device returned to them. A parent or caregiver will be contacted and asked to pick-up the device in the high school main office. If a student refuses to turn the device over to administration, the student will receive disciplinary consequences per the district code of conduct.



## Partnering with Families:

- Talk with your child about the purpose of this rule
- Encourage phone-free time at home
- Support healthy tech habits and self-control
- Trust the school to support your child's needs



Open the floor with questions, comments, ideas and concerns