

**POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES, BEEPERS, ETC.**  
**USE OF CELL PHONES BY STUDENTS, OTHER DEVICES FOR GRADES 6-12**

Use and misuse of cell phones have become a serious problem that threatens the ability of the district's schools to properly and efficiently operate its education program. The school board believes it is necessary to restrict student use and possession of cell phones, other electronic communication devices, cameras, MP 3 players, I-pods, and other portable music devices so that the opportunity for learning in the district's schools may be enhanced.

At the same time, cell phones and other electronic communication devices can, in controlled situations, offer a means to enhance student learning through their ability to access expanded sources of information. Teachers have the authority to permit student use of their cell phones for specific classroom lesson plans or projects. Students must abide by the guidelines the teacher gives for any such authorization. Students who fail to do so will be subject to the provisions of this policy governing misuse of cell phones.

For the purpose of this policy, the use of a cell phone, Bluetooth-type technology or other communication device includes any incoming call, text message, message waiting, or any other audible sound possible from the phone or device.

The student and/or the student's parents or guardians expressly assume any risk associated with students' owning or possessing such technology equipment.

Cell phone use by students while riding Marion School Buses to and from school is forbidden. In addition to the penalties listed below, bus riding privileges could also be removed.

Unless otherwise permitted in this policy, from the time of the first bell until after the last bell, students are forbidden from using cell phones, any paging device, beeper, Bluetooth-type receivers or similar electronic communication devices. When not permitted to be in use such devices may be stored in the student's book bag, locker or vehicle in an off or silent mode of operation. At prohibited times cell phones are not to be answered. Exceptions may only be made by the building principal or his/her designee for health or other compelling reasons.

Before and after normal school hours, possession of cell phones, any paging device, beeper, or similar electronic communication devices, cameras, MP 3 players, I-Pods, and other portable music devices is permitted on the school campus. The use of such devices at school-sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

Students using cell phones or other portable music devices after the first bell and before the last bell **(WHILE IN THE BUILDING)** shall have them confiscated. This means the complete phone including the SIM card. Confiscated cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be picked up at the school's administration office by the student's parents or guardians as set forth below.

**These consequences shall apply per semester:**

- First Offense:** The complete device will be confiscated and parent/guardian must come to school to retrieve the item.
- Second Offense:** The complete device will be confiscated for five (5) days and parent/guardian must come to school after the five (5) day period to retrieve the item.
- Third Offense:** The complete device will be confiscated for 10 days and parent/guardian must come to the school after the ten (10) day period to retrieve the device. In addition, the student will receive two days of In-school suspension.
- Fourth Offense:** The complete device will be confiscated for the remainder of the semester. In addition, the school will assign a three (3) day out-of-school suspension.
- Additional offenses:** Will be referred to the superintendent for further penalties even possible expulsion for non-compliance of the Board's policy.