Student Cell Phone Usage

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Research shows that cell phones in classrooms are a distraction for individual learning as well as the overall classroom environment. Certainly, we have all witnessed the distractions that cell phones can cause children in all areas of their lives. By taking steps to limit cell phone usage in school, we can assist students in fully participating in lessons and being truly present in class. Student engagement in learning is a top priority in our classrooms and paying attention does impact achievement. With the implementation of the 1-1 Chromebook program in our schools, students are able to access any digital resource during instructional time that may be needed for learning and as such there is no instructional need for cell phones.

Please see below for the District cell phone use protocols:

- At the High School, students are not permitted to have their cell phones or accessories out, or in use, while in classrooms unless expressly permitted by the classroom teacher. Sound alerts and notifications must be turned off while in class. Students will also be strongly encouraged to turn off silent notifications and alerts during class time as these are also proven to be distractions to learning. High school students may access their cell phones when they are not in an instructional period.

- At the Prodell Middle School, Wading River School and Miller Avenue School, cell phones may be brought to school, but are not permitted to be out or utilized during the regular school day at any time.

Please take a moment to review these cell phone protocols with your children and to remind them of appropriate cell phone use in school and on the bus. As always, your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated. Please reach out to my office at any time should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Gerard W. Poole
Superintendent of Schools

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