

## Change to Electronic Device Expectations

This year you will see a significant change with our electronic expectations. This letter is to inform students and families of this change. Our goal: Students will be present for learning!

Personal electronic devices like smartphones have become an everyday part of our world. We have followed the current research, received input from staff and students, and consulted with district administrators. Though cell phones can be an important tool in many parts of our lives, it is clear that cell phones have a negative impact on student learning and peer relationships during class time. In WLWV high schools, we have seen a pattern of phone use during class that contributes to behaviors that interrupt learning and negative peer interactions. We are committed to ensuring that each student has a device to access learning and meet any individualized accommodations your child may need. If your student does not have a Chromebook, please encourage them to connect with their teacher librarian!

All WLWV high schools will focus on all students being “Present for Learning”. An important expectation in being **“Present for learning” means be in class, on time and ready to learn.** It also means **no cell phones out during class time.**

- Phones are required to be in the designated classroom pocket or away in the student’s backpack during class time.
- This expectation applies during class time in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, cafeteria, and common spaces.
- Students may use their device before/after school, during passing time, and lunch; or if a teacher explicitly asks students to pull out their phones for a specific task
- Families can support your student’s presence for learning by recognizing you may not receive an instant response to a message.
- If you have an emergency, please call the attendance office and we will prioritize communication with your student.

Each high school administration and staff is committed to adhering to this change. This expectation will be reviewed in every class at the start of the year. If students don’t follow the “Present for Learning” expectation, we will work with the student and their family, and progressive discipline will be implemented. Some families may opt to have their student leave their phone at home.

We know this shift to “Present for learning: Cell phones away during class time” supports students’ academic success and their mental health. Here are a few key pieces of research that support this decision:

- Teens spend 9 hours a day on devices (Dodgen-Magee, 2018).
- Students earned an average letter grade and a half higher in the absence of mobile devices (Kuznekoff & Titsworth, 2013).
- There are correlations between time spent looking at phones and reports of teen depression (Twenge, 2017)
- [The Case for Making Classrooms Cell Free from a Teacher’s Perspective](#)
- [Rewire Schools for Belonging and Achievement](#)

This new expectation is in alignment with our updated board policy [JFCEB](#) . For more information around why this change in cell phone use during school is so important, please go to [Awayfortheday.org](#)

Please have conversations as a family about this change so that everyone knows what to expect when school begins this fall.