

# PTMS Cell Phone Policy

## 2022-2023



Research (resources listed below) is clear that students are more engaged socially and academically when they do not have unlimited and continual access to their phones at school. We also recognize that teachers may choose to have students utilize cell phones and the technology in creative ways that foster meaningful learning. To increase the focus on academics, to reduce unnecessary distractions, to foster healthy social/emotional development, and to promote interpersonal connections, Pacific Trails Middle School is adopting and administering the following policy:

Phone use permitted	Phone use not permitted
Teacher discretion during classroom instructional time as long as it supports academic learning	Breaktime Lunch Passing Periods

Unless the teacher directs and permits a student to access their phone during instructional time,

- Cell phones will be TURNED OFF from the first bell to the last bell of the day.
- Cell phones and AirPods will be kept in the student’s backpack/bag (not in clothing pockets).
- Cell phones and AirPods may be used in a classroom when directed by the teacher and for academic purposes only.
- Cell phone use is not permitted at any time during break, lunch or passing periods.
- Cell phones are not allowed to be used in locker rooms or restrooms at any time. Taking photos or videos in these locations will result in an acceleration of consequences below.

We recognize that sometimes students wish to make an urgent call during the school day. If this arises, they can do so from the front office.

Parents, please refrain from texting your student throughout the day as this can be distracting and disruptive to the learning experience. If you need to reach your student during the day, you may contact the front office. We will work to get a message to your student. However, we encourage you to make arrangements about pick-up location and other after-school needs prior to the school day to minimize the need to text your student during the school day.

Accommodations will be made for students who access their phone for medical reasons.

**Consequences:**

There will be a grace period to begin the school year during which PTMS will introduce, review and remind students of expectations around cell phone usage. After this time, PTMS administration will begin enforcement with the following consequences:

Consequences for cell phone/air pod violations will be documented in Aeries as follows:

- 1st offense:** Student will turn in phone to front office. Student can pick up their device(s) from the office at the end of the day.
- 2nd offense:** Student will turn in phone to front office. Student can pick up their device(s) from the office at the end of the day and will have restorative conversation about choices.
- 3rd offense:** Student will turn in phone to front office. Parent will be notified about student cell phone usage via email. Student can pick up their device(s) from the office at the end of the day and informed of future consequences. No additional warnings.
- 4th offense:** Student will turn in phone to front office. Parent will need to come to PTMS to pick up the phone. Meeting with administration, student and family to develop personal electronics plan/contract.

Parents, we invite you to access the research and resources listed below.

Additional resources:

- [Away for the Day](#) (website); [AFTD Research](#)
- [The Case for Making Classrooms Phone-Free](#) (article)
- [Campaign to Keep Middle School Students Off Their Cell Phones](#) (NPR interview)
- [Even After Shootings, Experts Warn Against Cellphones in Schools](#) (article)
- [The Time for Less Phones in Schools is Now](#) (article)
- [Parenting in the Screen Age: A Guide for Calm Conversations](#) (book)

Please review this with your student. We appreciate your partnership and support.

PTMS Staff