

# Lincoln High School Electronic Device Policy

## Revised for the 2022-2023 School Year

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Please carefully review our new electronic device policy, which will go into effect at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. A growing number of research studies show the drastic negative impact that using electronic devices, such as cell phones during school has on students. We have included a summary of just one of these studies at the end of this letter, so that you may understand the seriousness of Lincoln High School's electronic device policy changes. **\*District issue laptops are an exception to this policy\***

This policy is intended to ensure that personal electronic devices on district property do not interfere with the learning, safety, and well-being of students and staff.

*For the purposes of this policy, a personal electronic device is any device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays any message or video image, or is otherwise capable of sending, receiving, emitting, photographing, recording, storing or displaying any type of audio or visual communication, files, or data. This includes, but is not limited to, cellular phones, smartphones, earphones, headphones, camera phones, camera devices, video and audio recording devices, digital recording devices, scanning devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), MP3 players, iPods, iPads, tablets, computers, radios, pagers, any device that allows the possessor to access the Internet, or any similar device or any accessories to such devices such as earphones and Bluetooth devices.*

There is no reason that a student should need to use a cell phone during the regular school day. In any instance requiring an emergency communication with a student, our school will immediately assist the student, a parent, or other responsible adult with that situation by using a school telephone. All classrooms are equipped with a landline. If a parent/guardian does choose to call or text a student while in school, they must understand that the student will not have access to the phone until they are in a non-academic setting such as passing time or lunch time, so this will not be the most immediate way to contact a student. Calling the school line is our suggested practice.

Carrying an electronic device in the school building is a privilege, not a right. Students who comply with this policy shall be allowed to bring an electronic device into the building so long as it is not handled and it does not emit a noise (including vibration). Students who are unwilling or unable to comply with the policy shall have the privilege of carrying an electronic device within the school building revoked.

### **Policy:**

Every classroom will be equipped with a **Numbered Classroom Pocket Chart for Cell Phones**. Each student is encouraged to put their cell phone in their designated pocket. If a student chooses not to store their device in the storage pocket their phone must not be heard or seen for that entire duration of class.

### **Violation of Policy:**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense - A first time offender who chose not to place the device in the chargeable pockets and the device is heard/seen will be asked to place in the designated pocket.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense -- The device is confiscated either by a staff member or administration. A parent or guardian will be contacted and told what the 3rd offense will be.. *The Van Dyke Public School District is not responsible for any damage to or loss of electronic devices that have been confiscated.*

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense – Phone is sent down to the office, a phone call made to parent/guardian telling them they will need to come collect their child's phone. Discussion of the 4th offense will be discussed.

4<sup>th</sup> Offense – Electronic device privileges will be lost for the rest of the card marking.

5<sup>th</sup> Offense -- The device will be collected and held until the end of the card marking. *The Van Dyke Public School District is not responsible for any fees associated with any device that is being held due to violations of school policy.*

### **Zero tolerance for defiance related to electronic device violations**

At any time a staff member directs a student to surrender an electronic device, the student will be expected to do so immediately (without deleting anything, without setting security codes) and without complaint. ALL components, including the battery and SIM card are to be surrendered as well. Failure to surrender a device immediately is an act of defiance, and will result in the loss of electronic device privileges for the remainder of the semester. If a student feels there is a misunderstanding regarding the electronic device, the student must still surrender the device immediately as directed. The student will be able to discuss the matter with an administrator at a later time, but the student is expected to fully cooperate with the staff member requesting the device. Not surrendering the item immediately upon request counts as an automatic electronic device violation, and it will result in escalated consequences for defiance, in addition to a ban for carrying an electronic device for the remainder of the semester.

### **Tips for Parents/Guardians:**

1. Commit to contacting your child by calling the office if there is a need to communicate with them during the school day.
2. Limit the need to contact your child during the day and help them improve their own executive functioning and planning skills by proactively thinking of issues/events that require parent communication during the day, such as: pick-up, preparing lunch, appointments, or activities, in advance of school drop-off. Make a list and reconfirm in the morning before students are off to school.
3. If a student needs to reach a parent during the day, they can ask to go to the office to use the phone. This interaction provides them with another opportunity to connect with the staff community.

### **Data:**

*A growing pile of studies finds that the more students multitask, the lower their grades. And student multitasking is nearly constant. A few years ago, the Dominguez Hills researchers watched hundreds of middle school, high school and university students as they studied. The students stayed with a single task for less than six minutes on average before switching to something else.*

*Larry Rosen, psychology professor, is part of a team at Cal State Dominguez Hills using behavioral studies, physiological stress measures and brain scans to investigate how the distraction and anxiety engendered by digital devices can hurt learning.*

*Using electronic devices in the classroom can be distracting to students and lead to lower grades. A study published in the journal Educational Psychology found that students who had cell phones or laptops present while a lesson was being taught scored five percent, or half a letter grade, lower on exams than students who didn't use electronics.*

*The study also found that students in the device-permitting classroom who were not using devices also scored lower. The researchers attributed this to distraction from the devices around them.*

Rosen, Larry & Gazzaley, Adam. The Distracted Mind: Ancient Brains in a High Tech World. MIT Press. 2017.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read and understand our new electronic device policy. We are confident that with these new protocols in place all of our students will have a better chance to focus and engage in their classrooms. When you receive your packet in August with the 2021-2022 forms and paperwork, there will be an electronic device acknowledgement to sign and return. Please keep your eye out for this in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

Lincoln High School Administration

*Principal, Billie Szczepaniak*

*Assistant Principal, Derek Lawson*

*Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Michael Harris*