

Student Personal Device Policy Changes Began on March 3rd

Below is a County correspondence regarding the update to the student personal device policy. As we work to implement the changes here at GHS we will be communicating with students and partnering with you, our families. Change is complicated for all parties involved, students, staff, administration, and parents. We will work together to make the necessary changes as outlined.

HCPSS Message for community:

Families,

On January 30, 2025, the Board of Education approved adjustments to *Policy 8080 - Responsible Use of Technology, Digital Tools, and Social Media* that changes the ability for students to use personal devices during the school day. The Board approved the following changes related to the use of personal devices by students at school:

- No students, PreKindergarten-12, will be permitted to use cell phones and other personal technology devices during the student day (first bell to last bell of the day or posted school hours) except for reasons detailed in a student's IEP, 504, or health plan. Under the prior version of the policy, elementary and middle school students were not permitted to use personal devices during the school day at any time. For high school students, this policy removes access to personal device in between classes and at lunch. For all grade levels, the addition of consequences for violating the policy is new.
- When a personal device is used in violation of the new policy, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the student day. Following the first violation, the student may retrieve the device at the end of the student day. For all subsequent violations, a parent/guardian must retrieve the device from the school.
- A device that is confiscated during the final period of the student day will be confiscated for the entire next student day. The student may retrieve the device at the end of the day it was originally confiscated to take home but must provide it to the front office upon arrival on the next student day.
- Students may be in possession of personal devices, but they must be "away and silenced," meaning devices are not able to be seen by either the student or staff member and are set to make no noise. Additionally, devices may not be a distraction.
- Smart watches will be permitted to be worn to check time but may not be a distraction.
- Personal laptops may be used for instructional activities in high school when permitted by the teacher.
- A staff member on a school-sponsored field trip may permit the use of a personal technology device by a student in limited situations where capturing a picture or video may be appropriate or contacting a parent/guardian is necessary.
- School administrators and school administrators' designees may authorize use of a personal device in rare instances such as an emergency for communication purposes.

These new expectations will take effect on Monday, March 3, 2025. The [complete changes and expectations](#) may be found online. Please take time to review these new expectations with your student to ensure they do not violate the new policy.

Our school will adhere to the policy with hopes that the elimination of the distractions that personal devices cause use will result in healthier and more productive learning and social environments during the school day. More information will be shared before the implementation date.

Thank you for your collaboration in the successful implementation of these changes.