



# FLUSHING INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

"CELEBRATING MULTILINGUALISM AND MULTICULTURALISM OF RECENT IMMIGRANTS"

144-80 BARCLAY AVE  
FLUSHING, NY 11355  
PHONE: (718) 463-2348  
FAX: (718) 463-3514

  @FIHSNYC  
[WWW.FIHSNYC.ORG](http://WWW.FIHSNYC.ORG)

## Cell Phone & Personal Internet-Enabled Device Policy

**Effective Date: August 1, 2025**

### Purpose

To create a safe and focused learning environment that minimizes distractions caused by cell phones and personal internet-enabled electronic devices, and in compliance with New York State Education Law §2803, all schools are required to prohibit the use of such devices during the school day on school grounds.


FIHS is committed to cultivating classroom spaces that promote critical thinking, creativity, human connection, and student agency. While we value learning about technology and its responsible use, we must also protect our shared learning space from unnecessary distractions.

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### **What Is Prohibited?**

An **"internet-enabled electronic device"** is defined as any personal device that can access the internet, including:

- Cell phones and smartphones
- Smartwatches
- Laptops, tablets, iPads
- Portable music/entertainment systems

 The **school day** is defined as **8:40 AM to 3:23 PM**, from the moment students enter the school building until dismissal, including lunch.

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### **Policy Summary**

#### **1. Device Storage Upon Arrival**

- All personal devices must be **powered off** upon entry.
- Students will **store their devices in a designated cell phone locker** in their **first-period classroom**.



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- Devices remain stored until the end of the school day and are distributed by the teacher during the last period.
- Late-arriving students must sign in at the main office (Room 324B) and turn in their device to receive a class pass.
- Students with approved early dismissals will retrieve devices from their last period teacher before leaving.

## 2. Headphones & Earbuds

- No headphones or earbuds are allowed in ears during class unless explicitly required for a learning activity directed by the teacher.
- Headphones and earbuds should remain stored in the students bag and out of sight unless otherwise permitted.

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## 3. Emergency Communication

We recognize the importance of communication in emergency situations. Here's how we stay connected:

- Parents/guardians can reach their child by calling **Veronica Salazar** at (718) 463-2348.
- Students can request to use a phone in the Assistant Principals', Principal's, or Counselors' offices if needed.
- The school will use **Kinvo** to share emergency updates and school-wide alerts.
  - Need help with Kinvo? Contact our Parent Coordinator, **Veronica Salazar**.

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## 4. Exceptions to the Policy

Exceptions may be granted for the following reasons:

- Students with an **IEP or 504 Plan** that specifies the use of an internet-enabled device, and do not have access to a DOE-issued device.
- Medical or personal needs (e.g., monitoring blood sugar, caregiver responsibilities).



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- **Language support**, such as translation, when no other school-approved device is available.
- **Principal or designee** may approve temporary educational use of personal devices.

Requests for exceptions must be submitted to the **Principal or Assistant Principals** and will be processed within **5 school days**.

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## 5. Disciplinary Procedures

Violations of this policy, the NYCPS Discipline Code, Chancellor's Regulation A-413, or the NYCPS Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy (IAUSP) will be addressed using progressive discipline.

- Repeated violations may result in restorative conversations, parent-teacher communication, and parental conferences.
- After the 3rd time, the parent will need to come to school to pick up the phone
- Students cannot be suspended solely for using a device in violation of this policy. But **Repeated insubordination** (e.g., refusing to turn in or store a device) may lead to suspension.

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## 6. If Lost or Stolen

In the rare case that a device is **lost or damaged while at school**, families may file a claim with the **New York City Comptroller's Office**.

Visit the [Comptroller's webpage](#) for claim instructions.

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## Ongoing Commitment to Balance

As we navigate the evolving world of information technology, AI, and screen time, FIHS remains committed to finding the right balance. We will continue to partner with students, families, and faculty to:

- Stay current on research and best practices
- Promote responsible tech use



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- Preserve the classroom as a sacred space for authentic learning, creativity, and community

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## Questions?

For questions, exceptions, or concerns, please contact:

**Veronica Salazar, Parent Coordinator**

 (718) 463-2348

✉ [veronica@flushinginternational.org](mailto:veronica@flushinginternational.org)

We appreciate your cooperation in supporting a productive, student-centered learning environment for all.