



MARYVALE HIGH SCHOOL
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Jonathan Lattanzio, Principal
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Dear Maryvale High School Community,

You may have seen or heard the recent news about Governor Hochul's plan to restrict internet-enabled device use in schools as part of a broader effort to support student academic focus and well-being.

This new legislation aims to create a statewide standard for distraction-free schools and includes the following key points:

- **Personal smartphones and other personal internet-enabled devices** (such as smartwatches, tablets, laptops, headphones/earbuds, and other bluetooth devices) **would not be allowed during the school day**, including in classrooms, the cafeteria, study halls, hallways, gymnasium, athletic fields, playgrounds, and field trips.
- **Schools would have flexibility** in designing how these devices are stored during the day.
- **Parents and guardians would still have a way to contact their children** during school hours if necessary.

In anticipation of this statewide mandate, we spent the final months of the 2024-25 school year collaborating with stakeholders to develop our District's cell phone policy. We want to keep you informed of the new policy that will be in effect at the High School starting in September. Here is a breakdown of the key points:

Bell-to-Bell Internet-Enabled Device Restriction:

In accordance with New York State guidelines, students will **store all personal internet-enabled devices in their lockers** during the school day from 7:30am to 2:10pm. This includes:

- Smartphones or any other personal cell phone device which allows students to communicate through voice, text message, or video
- Smartwatches
- Tablets
- Personal laptops
- Wireless headphones/earbuds
- Bluetooth devices

What to Expect When Students Return on September 2, 2025:

Your administrators, Mr. Lattanzio and Ms. Novo, will hold grade-level meetings on the first day of school to review the following expectations with all students. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions if they have any at this time.

- Devices may not be used during the school day in any setting (classrooms, study halls, hallways, cafeteria, gym, playground, field trips, etc.)
- Only school-issued Chromebooks may be used (Personal laptops and tablets must be left at home)
- Students can use the main office phone to contact families if needed
- Families can call, email, or leave a note with the main office to get in touch with their student. Students may use the office phone to call home.

If a student is found with a device:

- **1st time:** Student turns in the device and it is locked in a storage bag in the main office. Student may pick up the device at the end of the day.
- **2nd time:** Student turns in the device and it is locked in a storage bag in the main office. A parent/guardian must pick up the device.
- **3rd time:** Student turns in their device to the main office every morning for four weeks. The device will be locked in a storage bag and may be picked up at the end of each day by the student.
- **4+ times:** Student turns in their device to the main office every morning for the remainder of the school year. The device will be locked in a storage bag and may be picked up at the end of each day by the student. There will be an incentive plan for students to earn their privileges back early.

I appreciate your support as we navigate through this change. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Lattanzio
Principal
Maryvale High School