



Hello Highland Parents/Guardians,

Beginning second semester (January 8, 2024), Highland will implement a revised cell phone and earbud/headphone policy. Research continues to reveal the negative academic and emotional impacts of cell phones and other devices in the classroom. Our staff is committed to providing an environment that is conducive to learning, academic achievement, and social-emotional growth. It is evident that cell phones and other devices are creating roadblocks and adversely impacting student learning, mental health, and safety. This systemic policy will establish school-wide expectations and consistency. Please review our revised policy below, as well as frequently asked questions (FAQs) and articles for further reading.

Highland Cell Phone and Earbud/Headphone Policy

Students are expected to have their earbuds/headphones put away and cell phones turned off and out of sight during class and passing time. They are permitted to use their device before school, during lunch, and after school.

If a student has their cell phone or earbuds/headphones out in class or out during passing time, regardless of the reason, teachers will confiscate the device to be stored at the front office for the rest of the school day.

1. Students will need to pick up their device from administration at the end of the school day. Parents will be notified by Administration.
2. If this is a repeated behavior, Administration will work with the family to determine appropriate consequences and establish a device restriction plan (ex: devices left at home, devices checked in before going to class, etc.).
3. Students will work with Administration to develop an action plan prior to lifting the restriction plan.

We highly encourage you to talk to your child about this policy revision in preparation for January. If you have any questions, please complete this [Google Form](#). This will allow us to record questions, and respond in a timely manner, as well as further develop our FAQs.

Thank you for your attention and support to this important policy revision! We look forward to a great semester two start!

Nicole Crosby, Principal

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We anticipated a few of the questions you may have, but please feel free to complete the [Google Form](#) or reach out to administration with additional questions or further clarification.

1. What if I need to get into contact with my child during the day?
 - a. Please contact the front office, and we will communicate messages between classes. If there is an emergency, please contact the front office and we will communicate to your child right away. Each classroom is also equipped with a phone in the event of an emergency or urgent issue.
2. What if my child uses their earbuds/headphones to stay focused during class?
 - a. Students will still be permitted to use noise reducing headphones (non-music) to help with noise and focus during class. Highland has purchased a number of additional noise reducing headphones to support students.
3. What if my child has a required accommodation in their IEP or 504 plan?
 - a. Accommodations identified in an IEP or 504 will continue to be supported by Highland staff.
4. Sometimes my child uses their cell phone to complete work. Can they still do that?
 - a. Students will be expected to use their Chromebooks to complete schoolwork. Highland has purchased 10 additional Chromebooks that can be checked out if a student forgets their device for the day. Additionally, we have purchased more calculators that will be housed in our math classrooms.
5. What if there is an emergency or a safety issue?
 - a. In the event of an emergency or safety issue, we want students focusing their full attention on the adult in the classroom, listening for directions and any other vital information.

Further Reading

[ASD Student Handbook](#)

<https://www.rutgers.edu/news/cellphone-distraction-classroom-can-lead-lower-grades-rutgers-study-finds>

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/691462>

<https://www.saveourschoolsmarch.org/why-cellphones-should-not-be-allowed-in-school/>