

Brewbaker Middle is a Cellphone Free Zone

DISTRICT ELECTRONIC DEVICE AND MAGNETIC POUCH POLICY

In alignment with the **Alabama FOCUS Act**—which emphasizes minimizing distractions in the classroom and prioritizing student learning—the district has updated its policy to reflect our shared commitment to maintaining a focused, safe, and academically engaging school environment. This policy is intended to ensure that personal electronic devices on district and school 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 defined as 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, digital recording devices, scanning devices, personal digital assistants (PDAs), MP3 players, iPods, iPads, tablets, smartwatches, computers, radios, pagers, any device that allows internet access, and accessories such as Bluetooth devices.**

To support this policy and prevent disruptions during the instructional day, all personal electronic devices must be **secured in school-issued magnetic pouches** during school hours.

In any instance requiring emergency communication, school staff will immediately assist the student, parent, or other responsible adult using a school telephone. Emergencies will be determined by school staff and **will not** include routine messages or the delivery or retrieval of items.

This policy **does not apply** to school-issued laptop computers or Chromebooks, which are permitted for academic use under teacher direction.

By enforcing this policy in accordance with the **Alabama FOCUS Act**, our schools are committed to reducing distractions and maintaining a learning environment that supports academic success and student well-being.

STUDENT PHONE GUIDELINES

ARRIVAL

Upon entry into the building, you will power your phone off and place it inside your Yondr pouch in the presence of a faculty or staff representative.

LOCK

After the phone is placed inside of the pouch it will be locked. You will then place your pouch in your backpack and maintain possession of your phone and pouch at all times.

UNLOCK

As you are exiting the building staff members will direct you to the unlocking bases where you will be able to unlock your pouch to retrieve your phone. Pouches should remain unlocked and placed inside of your backpack in preparation for the next day.

CHECK-IN/CHECK OUT

*Students arriving late or leaving early will pouch/unpouch their phones in the main office.



DAILY PROCESS

***** Students must bring their Pouch to school with them each day. *****

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VIOLATIONS

Voluntary Surrender of Phone

If a student **voluntarily turns in their phone** when reminded of the pouch policy, the following procedures will apply:

- **1st Offense:**
The phone will be collected by school staff and secured in the front office. A letter will be sent home with the student as a reminder of the school's electronic device policy. The student may retrieve the phone at the end of the school day.
- **2nd Offense:**
The phone will be collected and held in the front office. A second letter will be sent home reinforcing the expectations of the pouch policy. The student may again retrieve the phone at the end of the school day.
- **3rd Offense:**
The phone will be collected and held in the front office. A letter will be sent home with the student. The phone must be picked up by a parent or adult listed in PowerSchool. If the behavior continues beyond the third offense, it will be considered a Code 9 violation, which may result in In-School Suspension (ISS) or Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) at administration's discretion.

Non-Voluntary Confiscation of Phone

If a student **refuses to comply** with the pouch policy and the phone must be confiscated by staff, the following consequences will be enforced:

- **1st Offense:**
The phone will be confiscated and placed in the school vault for a 24-hour hold, not including weekends. The phone will only be released to a parent or adult listed in PowerSchool. The incident will be documented under Code 9: Defiance, Disrespect, and Opposition to Authority.
- **2nd Offense:**
The phone will again be held for 24 hours in the school vault, with a parent or guardian required to pick it up. In addition, the student will be assigned In-School Suspension (ISS). The offense will be recorded as Code 9.
- **3rd Offense:**
The phone will be held for another 24-hour period and released only to a parent or guardian. The student will be assigned Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) in accordance with district policy. This violation will be documented as Code 10: Persistent/Willful Disobedience.

EXAMPLES OF DAMAGE

Ripped ● Cut ● Torn ● Pen/pencil marks ● Bent/cut pin ● Signs of force to black button on flap

Forgotten Pouch

If a student forgets their pouch, the student should voluntarily surrender the phone, which will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day as outlined in the Violations section. A letter will be sent home with the student to notify the parent of the incident and provide a reminder of the policy.

If a student consistently forgets their Pouch, it is considered Lost. **Refer to the Lost Pouch policy section.**

WITHDRAWALS

Upon withdrawing from a school, a student must return all assigned MPS property (chromebook, student identification badge, magnetic pouch, etc.) and pay any outstanding fees prior to receiving clearance from the school.

Brewbaker Middle School assumes no liability for the loss, or damage, misuse, or theft of the device by any person.