

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

STUDENT CELL PHONE POLICY - 2023-2024

As we gear up for the 2023-24 school year, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools would like to emphasize the importance of protecting instructional time each school day. Our commitment to student achievement requires us to create an optimal learning environment for our students. One crucial step in achieving this is by limiting cell phone usage in accordance with Rule 5 of the Code of Student Conduct.

During instructional time, cell phones must be turned off and stored. A principal may put additional rules in place permitting student use of cell phones during non-instructional times of the school day. The principal must assure that these rules are publicized to students and parents.

Possession of a cell phone by a student during school hours is a privilege, which may be revoked for violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Violations may result in confiscation and/or other disciplinary actions. Any additional need for, or use of, other personal technology devices for instructional purposes will be at the discretion of each school principal. This allows you the flexibility to assess the needs of your students and make decisions that best align with our commitment to student achievement. Guidelines on other Personal Technology Devices (PTDs) will be forthcoming.

The district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage to cell phones or other PTDs brought onto CMS property. If students are permitted to use a cell phone during non-instructional times, they must follow all rules set forth in Policy S-SINT and Regulation S-SINT/R and sign the Student Internet Use Agreement.

At CMS, we believe that an uninterrupted learning environment is vital to nurturing academic excellence, one of our four pillars necessary to fulfill our vision and mission. As educational leaders, you have a critical role in ensuring that instructional time is protected and utilized effectively to maximize the learning potential of our students. To maintain this environment, we must remind all students and teachers to adhere to and uphold the guidelines outlined. This measure will not only minimize distractions but also foster a conducive atmosphere where students can fully engage in their studies and educational pursuits.

We acknowledge the role technology plays in modern education and the benefits it brings to learning experiences. As such, students will continue to have access to the internet using district-issued devices. Thank you for your outstanding leadership and dedication to the students and families of CMS.

Together, let us be intentional about protecting instructional time, supporting student achievement, and committed to serving in excellence without exception for every student in our district to succeed.