GMS Student Cell Phone Policy

Maintaining the integrity of the learning environment is our top priority:

- Students are **NOT** allowed to use cell phones at Githens Middle School (GMS). As soon as students enter the building they need to be powered off and placed in their bookbags. Phones should not be visible during the school day (inside and outside of classrooms).
- Students **MUST** have their cell phones turned off during the school day at all times.
- Cell phone charging is not allowed on campus.
- Fire drills, assemblies, or other school evacuations are considered cell phone blackouts.
- Please contact the GMS front office (919) 560-3966 to get in touch with your student in case of emergencies. Similarly, your student can use the phone in the front office or the phone in their grade level administrator's office to contact home in case of emergencies.

If a student is seen using a cell phone during class, in GMS halls, restrooms, etc. the following consequences will apply:

- First Infraction: Conversation with the student (verbal warning/documentation in Educator's Handbook)
- Second Infraction: Phone call, email, or text message to a parent or guardian (documentation in Educator's Handbook)
- Third Infraction: Confiscation of device by administrator; Restorative Practices or Team Specific Assignments during lunch (documentation in Educator's Handbook)
- Additional Offenses including non-compliance: A student may face further consequences from administrators including in-school or out-of-school suspension.

Certain infractions result in students immediately losing the privilege to carry a cell phone on the GMS campus. This penalty is decided by school administrators and includes, but is not limited to, infractions such as:

- Posting harmful material against students and/or any members of the school community
- Refusing to comply with cell phone policy
- Making threats against the school, staff or students

During times of testing and other student evaluations, teachers **WILL** direct students to remove their cell phone from their possession reducing the possibility of compromised test security.

****PLEASE NOTE**: **The school and its employees are in no way responsible for any theft or damage of a student's cell phone/electronic device while on school grounds. The school is not obligated to investigate the loss or damage of any cell phone.**