

Cell Phone Permission Form
2014-2015

Dear families,

Big Elm Elementary is excited to announce that we are working toward implementing our first cell phone use policy! This policy will influence cell phones as instructional tools in our classrooms. With this policy, we hope to use every day cell phones to gain the interests of our students and strengthen core subject matter in Reading and Math.

The staff at Big Elm wants to utilize cell phones in the classroom because cell phones are a large part of our lives and of our students' lives. Our students want and need to use cell phones in the school setting because they are valuable sources of information that keep students up-to-date with technology and our ever-changing world.

In our classrooms, we will use our cell phones to strengthen our math and reading skills in order to positively impact our West Test2 scores. For reading, we will use on-line readers to read and complete comprehension activities. We will use free text message systems to summarize texts and will use podcasts to practice fluency skills. For math, we will use on-line polling systems to discuss and review the answers to several math questions. We will also use cameras with voice recordings and videos to describe different strategies to solving multiple math problems.

In order to use cell phones in the classroom setting, students must follow the following guidelines:

- No texting/ calling peers without the free, directed classroom texting features
- Pictures of any inappropriateness will not be tolerated
- Students must always complete work and stay on task while using cell phones
- Students and parents must sign the approved cell phone policy
- Your cell phone is your responsibility. The school is not responsible for broken or misplaced phones

Students and Parents must review Cyber Safety Packets prior to using cell phones in the classroom

Inappropriate use of cell phones related to classroom projects while in school will result in immediate removal from cell phone use. **The use of cell phones in the classroom is a privilege and is not a right.**

Parents and guardians can help students become responsible users of cell phones by being responsible role models themselves. Parents should monitor their child's activity on the phone, especially on the Internet. Parents should provide their children with educational games and apps and emphasize that a cell phone is a responsibility and should be taken care of physically. Other components, such as appropriate sharing of information through social media, appropriate images to take, and even battery life should be discussed often.

If you do not wish to participate in this program, you will not be penalized and other modes of participation will be made available to your child. If you do not have access to a cell phone, the school will supply your child with a phone that will be left at the school and will only be used for instructional purposes.

Please sign and return this form with your child as soon as possible.
Thank you!

Guardian Signature _____

Student Signature _____

Instructor Signature _____

Administrator Signature _____