

## Common Questions:

How do I get a hold of my student during the school day?

*Call the front office if you need to speak to your student. You may leave a message to be delivered to her/him.*

What if my child is involved in a sport? What if they need to call when they are done?

*Students can have their cell phone before and after school.*

What if there is an emergency and my child needs to get a hold of me?

*There are landlines in all classrooms. Email is also available. Students can use landlines in the classroom in the event a parent needs to be contacted immediately.*



## Why does Mac have a cell phone procedure?



In recent years, McLoughlin staff have noticed a significant increase in cell phone issues.

- Students have become increasingly more distracted by the constant interruption from cell phones.
- There has been an increase in harassment and bullying due to cell phone usage and social media during the school day.
- 65% of behavior referrals at Mac involve issues with a cell phone.
- Students are playing games, using social media and searching inappropriate web sites during the school day.
- Students are unable to give their full attention in the classroom and grades are declining.

## McLoughlin Middle School Cell Phone Procedure

# Away

*for the day*



## A Guide For Parents & Students

## Cell Phone Facts:

82% of middle school parents do not want their kids to use cell phones during school.

75% of teachers reported that student attention has decreased.

10.6% lower test scores among students regularly interrupted by text messages

56% of 8th graders who use social media frequently report feeling unhappy.

Teens suffer from sleep loss due to keeping cell phones close by them at night.

Relying on texting as communication can increase anxiety among teens.

Teens are not using cell phones as phones, but rather as game consoles, televisions and cameras.

Only 61% of teens use privacy settings on their social media sites.



## Cell Phone Procedure:

The intent of this procedure is to maximize educational opportunities for students. By limiting the constant distractions, students will spend more time focused on their learning and interpersonal relationships, rather than the disruption, anxiety or mental pull of their cell phones.

- The school is not responsible for the breakage or loss of a cell phone. For that reason, students are discouraged from bringing cell phones or anything else of value.
- Students and parents/guardians sign a procedure prior to the start of the school year, acknowledging their understanding of the procedure.
- Cell phones may be used before and after school.
- Students will check in their phones at a designated location for safe keeping, prior to the start of the school day.
- Cell phones will be locked up during the school day.
- Students who need to leave school early in the day will be allowed to retrieve their phones when they leave.
- Students may pick up their cell phones at the end of the day in a designated location.
- Cell phones that are seen during the school day will be confiscated for parents/guardians to pick up. Additional consequences will be issued for students not abiding by school procedure.

Thank you for supporting the McLoughlin staff as we strive to give your students the best education possible. This procedure will ensure that students are more engaged in the classroom setting. It will increase learning and improve grades as well as test scores. It will also allow students to learn and practice cooperation and social skills that will prepare them for success in our global society.

For more information  
on cell phone procedures  
around the nation,  
see the research,  
hear success stories  
or get more information  
go to : <https://www.awayfortheday.org>

