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## Flex Fridays and cell phones

2 messages

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**Neil and Lynnette Wright** <alaskawright@gmail.com>  
To: Kristie Beckett <kbeckett@cordovasd.org>

Thu, May 2, 2024 at 4:03 PM

To whole it may concern,

I just wanted to weigh in on the current debate over flex Fridays and cell phones. Prepare for a book 📖

I have mixed feelings on the productivity and purpose of flex Fridays, but at the same time have very strong feelings as to what we are asking daily of our teaching and support staff. Our staff is, in my opinion, overworked and underpaid/under-supported. I personally see those Fridays as an opportunity for teachers to make time both for planning and for offering assistance to those students that need some extra help in an ever changing school environment. Primarily, we ask and expect a lot of our teachers/aids/and staff as we burden them with so much responsibility toward the development of our (literal) future. I want what is best for them ultimately and above all else.

In addition, I think the advantages we have been able to offer our high schoolers through the college are a huge asset, and give our kids an advantage. To clarify, I am not sure the same advantage would be gained by elementary kids only having 4 days each week, for a multitude of reasons. They seem to forget so many school related things over long weekends...

As for cell phones, I myself am guilty of being part of the problem, having provided (and regretted) one to my oldest. I can only imagine how distracting they are, never mind the stifling of interaction that I see when I step into the school at lunchtime. In addition, they have created problems the consequences of which have the potential to be catastrophically life altering for kids. As a parent, I would love to be able to say they aren't allowed, and I would support the school wholeheartedly.

However, in full disclosure I myself have been exploring smart watches (to my horror) for my now kindergartener. I don't feel sufficiently educated yet to commit to a particular one (wanting to be able to set very strict limitations) and school rules are definitely a part of that. But, her recent medical diagnosis has made me aware of her need to communicate immediately with me, her dad, or even emergency services in the case of adrenal crisis that could happen anywhere and anytime. This terrifies me, and yet I want her to have the same independence as any other kid. Much to my dismay, being able to connect with her through technology feels like it might further enable that freedom. For her to be able to tell me she needs additional meds, support, or even just confirm she has taken her medication, would give her and I the support she is going to need to manage her own body autonomously as she grows up and eventually into adulthood. In summary, I would love to disallow cell phones, but am not certain yet I feel the same way about things like smartwatches. I can't offer blanket support, instead would ask for that to be a separate topic for discussion/set of rules.

Thank you for all you do!

Nettie Wright

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**Kristie Beckett** <kbeckett@cordovasd.org>  
To: CSD School Board <csd\_board@cordovasd.org>

Thu, May 2, 2024 at 4:05 PM

See below for Board Correspondence I received.

Thank you,  
**Kristie Beckett**

Administrative Assistant

Cordova School District

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