

**5131.81 (current)**

**Use of Cellular telephones (back to top)**

**Students shall not use or display electronic devices including cell phones during school hours.**

**A person who discovers a student using or displaying a cell phone without the written permission of the principal shall report the violation to a school administrator who shall confiscate the device and implement the appropriate consequences. Each school shall establish consequences, which may include fines, for the violation of the cell phone use policy and upon approval of the Board of Education shall publish those consequences in the school handbook.**

**Legal reference: PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety**

**PA 96-108 An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication**

**Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates**

**Policy adopted: December 20, 2001**

**Revised: November 16, 2006**

**5131.81 (revised)**

**Use of Cellular telephones (back to top)**

**Students shall not use or display electronic devices including cell phones during school hours *in a manner that disrupts the educational environment, including using the device to cheat, signal others, or otherwise violate student conduct rules.***

**A person who discovers a student using or displaying a cell phone *in a disruptive manner, shall implement the appropriate consequences.* Each school shall establish consequences, for the violation of the cell phone use policy and upon approval of the Board of Education shall publish those consequences in the school handbook.**

**Legal reference: PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety**

**PA 96-108 An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication**

**Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates**

**Policy adopted: December 20, 2001**

**Revised: November 16, 2006**

Hello Dr. Conway,

We had a successful technology meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. All stakeholders – parents, students and faculty were represented.

The group agreed that policies need to be in place for all three levels within the district – a district technology policy would have to be further broken down by school/grade level.

The group agreed that at DHS cell phones/technology should be permitted within common areas and hallways (including the Senior Lounge and the Cafeteria).

The group agreed that the policy needs to be posted and uniformly enforced by all staff members.

The group agreed that cell phone use within the classroom should “add to what is being taught”

One teacher, Ms. DiLullo is currently utilizing a Red/Green Zone for cell phone use. This was well received by all stakeholders and may be used as a pilot in some other classrooms.

On Sep 12, 2016, at 4:31 PM, Valentin, Lynette <Lynette.Valentin@peoples.com> wrote:

Hi Marty,

I feel that in this day in age, the smart phone has become a hand held personal computer that can be very useful. I myself am guilty of "googling" to get some clarity on topics that come up at work. The dilemma comes from the fact that without clear guidelines from the school, teenagers can sometime abuse this privilege.

Unfortunately, in this day and age we know for certain that there have been horrific acts of violence in schools and as a parent I want to know that my son has his cell phone in his pocket in the event he needed to call for help or give me an update on where he was. For this reason, I am strongly against a policy that would require him to keep his cell phone in his locker. With that said, I believe there needs to be guidance as to what is acceptable cell phone usage so that school faculty is not faced with students who disregard classroom time by texting or surfing the web.

Here is how I would answer the questions you posed to the student council:

1. How do you feel about a cell phone policy that includes the idea of "respectful and responsible use of technology"? *I agree with this direction.*
2. Do you feel cell phone use impacts a student's ability to focus in class? *It depends on what they are using the cell phone for. It is not uncommon for students to utilize the browser on their phone to "google" information. This may or may not be associated with the lesson plan but that depends on the class and the student. This practice can be abused by some students and should be monitored by the teachers.*
3. Do you feel teachers enforce cell phone policies? Explain your response: *I think if a teacher is engaged with their students, they should be aware if the cell phone is being used for purposes outside of the learning plan. It should be clear to both the teacher and student what is allowed under the school policy and what is not. In that case, it should not be up for debate if a student is clearly breaking the rules.*
4. If you could write a new cell phone policy, what would it say? *A new cell phone policy would include language that clearly outlines the rules such as:*