

**BEMIDJI AREA SCHOOLS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA**

DATE: JULY 15, 2024

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: JEREMY OLSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**SUBJECT: CELL PHONE ADDENDUM TO BEMIDJI HIGH SCHOOL
HANDBOOK**

COMMENTS:

Handbook Language:

The typical Bemidji High School student has access to a lot of information at any given time either by the use of their own technology or through the schools. Bemidji High School understands the continued evolution of technology as a part of our student's everyday life. The BHS administration, teachers, and support staff want every student to be engaged in their classroom work every day. As a district, we want to support change and will provide guidance to help students reach their full potential.

The district has implemented a Procedure for Personal Electronic Devices. The district knows the importance of an effective classroom and supports bell-to-bell student engagement.

Personal Electronic Devices such as cell phones, handheld video games, or any other type of devices like these will not be allowed during structured classroom/school time. During the school day between 8:05 A.M. to 3:05 P.M., students will be expected to have their devices put away and be engaged with the classroom material. Students can leave their devices in their lockers or backpacks during instruction/structured time. Outside of the classroom during school such as before school, after school, during lunches, and between classes, students may use their personal devices.

Bemidji High School staff understands this will be a shift for students. The Administration along with the teachers will help with this transition by providing “why” we are making this shift. For students who are struggling, we will have a progressive Discipline Process.

If the school district has a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated a school rule or law by the use of a cell phone, or other electronic device, the school district may request to search the device. The search will be reasonably related in scope to the circumstances justifying the search.

Discipline Process:

- After each term begins and there has been an appropriate amount of time given to educate (I AM THINKING ONE WEEK into each new term or semester), staff will follow a process for students who are still struggling with the building-wide expectations.

1. Consistent classroom reminders of the “why”
 2. Individual conversation in private
 3. Call home to parent (not an email) - NED referral
 4. Call for support staff to get the phone
 - a. To be taken to the office for parents to pick up at the end of the day
 - i. The phone will be put into a safe space
 - b. If a student refuses to hand over the phone or to comply with the staff directives, their actions can be coded under insubordination in the student handbook
- ***BHS staff and administration hold the right to escalate the discipline process if the situation warrants additional behavioral supports***

ACTION:

The motion was offered by _____, seconded by _____, and carried by () to approve this cell phone addendum to the Bemidji High School handbook.