

North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School Cell Phone Expectation 2023-2024

To the Parents/Guardians of North Schuylkill Jr./Sr. High School Students,

As we prepare for the start of the 2023-2024 school year, we would like to address a change in expectations regarding cell phone use by students, **during regular school hours**. In the past few years, we have seen a dramatic increase in the use of cell phones by students throughout the school day. Through conversations with staff, as well as administrators, it has been determined that this increase in cell phone usage has become a hindrance to the educational process. Due to the increase in usage including texting, calling, posting, and reading social media, our students have been disengaged and have lacked focus on curriculum. At the same time, we have also experienced a dramatic increase in the number of instances pertaining to cyber-bullying, picture taking and video recording without proper consent. This has led to an increase in student discipline referrals.

By limiting the amount of time students are on their cell phones during the school day, we hope to increase the amount of time students are engaged in classroom activities focusing on their academic success. We are also hoping to reduce the impact of social media in our school and the negative effect that it may have on our students. Please be advised of the following expectation regarding student cell phones:

Cell phones should be placed in the student's bookbag, locker, or pocket. Student cell phones should NOT be visible throughout the school day. Cell phone usage will not be permitted during regular school hours.

If a cell phone is made visible and confiscated by a member of our faculty or staff, the consequences are as follows:

1st Offense:

- The student's phone will be confiscated and locked in the Dean's office for the remainder of the day. The student may pick up his/her device from an administrator at the end of the day.

2nd Offense:

- The student's phone will be confiscated and locked in the Dean's office until the cell phone is obtained by a parent/guardian.

3rd Offense:

- Will result in the confiscation of the cell phone and locked in the Dean's office. A phone contract will be required to be signed by the student, (daily check-in/check-out of device for remainder of the marking period or 15 days) and 15 days of social probation, which prevents a student from attending school dances, (home) athletic events, and various school functions. Violation of cell phone agreements may result in further discipline, such as suspension.

Additional offenses will be considered as an act of insubordination. A student who refuses to comply with a request to surrender their cell phone by any member of the faculty, staff, and/or administration will be considered insubordinate and further discipline will be levied.

We hope you understand our stance on cell phone usage, and we highly encourage you to talk with your child about these new expectations before the start of the new school year. We will also be holding a community meeting, where you will be given the opportunity to voice your opinion and questions. The community meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 31, 2023, at 6:00 p.m in the high school auditorium. The administrative team will be addressing this change with students on the first day of school, and it will also be reflected in our updated version of the Student Handbook. As always, we appreciate your support as we try to provide each student with the best educational experience possible.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ken Roseberry

Principal

Mr. Nick Sajone

Vice Principal

Mr. Rob Shaffer

Dean of Students