

2023-2024

### Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

**Please note that the cell phone section applies to any designed cellular device, regardless of connectivity and any peripheral device that is designed to work with a cellular device such as a smart device, watch, ear buds, head phones, etc.**

Students bringing cellular phones, electronic devices, and peripherals to school, do so at their own risk. Neither the Hamilton County Department of Education, nor East Hamilton High School will assume any liability for any lost, stolen or damaged cell phones or electronic devices in school, nor any school related activity. Students must comply on the first request to surrender a cellular device or face suspension. Upon being asked to surrender their cell phone, the student must surrender all cellular devices and peripherals in their possession. Further once asked to surrender their device(s), a student has lost the both possession and use privilege while on the EH HS campus until an administrator restores it.

Once within the EH HS campus-building cell phones must be stowed in a student's assigned locked locker. Cell phones are not allowed on the student's person except during the correct, assigned lunch-time. **To be clear, student cell phone possession, usage, and distribution is banned from all classrooms, restrooms, and hallway.** The only time that students will be allowed possession of their cell phones will be during the respective student's lunch time. A student may once again use their cell phones leaving school and entering either the school bus, personal transport, or walking pathway in direct route toward their residence. While on campus, cell phones and devices capable of a cell linking must remain on silent mode at all times. The consequences for violations of this policy both at the HS and levels shall result in the Code of Acceptable Behavior, per HCDE.

When confiscated, the cell-phone should be turned-into **Mrs. Stewart** who will make a log-entry into PowerSchool noting the collection dates. If a student chooses to not surrender their phone, call for the appropriate administrator to come to your classroom. This policy is designed to protect the educational program of all students. The use of student cell phones or other electronic devices on campus is a privilege, not a right. Students found by staff members to be in violation of any of the above stated rules or restrictions are subject to administrative discipline, which may result in confiscation of the cell phone/device. Students using cell phones or electronic devices in any manner that violates our school rules of conduct, or using their device for unlawful purposes will be subject to more severe discipline action, up to and including extended suspension and/or expulsion.

**Notice to parents:** Please do not contact or communicate with students during instructional time via cell phones. All emergency contact to the student must go through the main office, attendance office, or nurse's office when necessary. Parents may opt to

emailing their student through their district email address which may be accessed through the student-issued Chromebook. In most cases, a student may be given permission to use a classroom or administrative telephone to contact a parent/guardian.

*Additionally, East Hamilton High School's believe that cell phone usage by students is counterproductive and encourages obsessive and addictive behaviors that aren't in alignment with our strategic academic, social-emotional, or safety charge. Many studies both private and governmental indicate an exhaustive list of rationale that cite the detrimental nature of student cell phone usage: Distraction, Poor grades, Cyberbullying, Inability to focus, Timely work completion, Used as a tool for escapism, Academic cheating, Social life distortion and maturation, lack of physical activities, Leading Peer Pressure, Cause and Targets of Social and Emotional Distress, Suicidal Tendencies/Knowledge/Outlets.*

#### Cell Phone and Electronic Device Violations

1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Phone is taken-up, parent contact, and phone is returned to the student at the end of the school day.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Phone is collected, parent contact, and phone is held for 5 days.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Phone is collected, parent contact, and phone is held for 10 days.

4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Refer to COAB.

Refusal to comply with the initial request to surrender the cell phone will result in an out of school suspension.