



## Cell Phone Classroom Procedure

In an effort to continuously improve student learning and personal accountability within the classrooms at Schaumburg High School, our staff will be implementing an updated Cell Phone Procedure for the 2019-2020 school year.

The reason for updating our current procedure is due to growing concerns among parents, students, and staff who see cell phones as a barrier to learning within the classroom setting. The research below illustrates some of the findings on cell phones as they relate to student learning, and specifically the damaging effects they can have on this process.

- [\*\*A London School of Economics study found that if phones are not visible, students' test scores rise 6-14%.\*\*](#)
- [\*\*A University of Nebraska study found that students spend up to 20% of class using digital devices on activities unrelated to class.\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Research at the University of Texas-Austin found that the mere presence of a phone on a desk reduces cognitive capacity.\*\*](#)
- [\*\*A study in the journal Communication Education found that students without cell phones in class wrote down 62% more notes and scored a full letter grade and a half higher on multiple choice tests.\*\*](#)

We would like to share the updated SHS Cell Phone Procedure as we begin the new school year. The changes are centered around setting and communicating clear expectations for students and streamlining the tracking process. This school initiative adheres to our current District 211 Board of Education Policy, which can be found on page 6 in the Schaumburg High School Calendar/Handbook under "Electronic Devices."

Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, cell phones should not be used or visible once students cross the doorway into academic spaces. Proper use of cell phones will be permitted in the cafeteria, hallways, and media center. Students who do not follow teacher classroom procedures may be subject to the tiered consequences outlined below:

- **1st/2nd Violation:** Warning email sent to parent/guardian and student.
- **3rd/4th Violation:** Email sent to parent/guardian and student. Administrator will confiscate student phone for the day; student picks up at the end of the day.
- **5th/6th Violation:** Email sent to parent/guardian and student. Administrator will confiscate student phone for the day and contact parent/guardian. Parent responsible to pick up student's phone from the school and will meet with school administration.
- **Subsequent Violations:** Email sent to parent/guardian and student. Administrator will confiscate student phone. Administrator, parent/guardian, and student meet which may result in extended loss of phone privileges and/or school suspension.

\*Failure to follow school rules may be considered insubordination and may result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Board of Education policy found in the Schaumburg High School Calendar/Handbook beginning on page 8.

Should a student need to be contacted during classroom time, parents/guardians may call the Attendance Office at 847-755-4670.

In order to roll out this new procedure successfully to our students, we will complete a series of activities during the first week of school in August. This will include reviewing the new procedure as outlined in class syllabi and a lesson plan focusing on the purpose and importance of the appropriate cell phone usage. The first week of school will serve as a training period for the students, allowing them to become familiar with the procedure and how it will be enforced without facing any immediate consequences. As our goal is to improve student learning in the classroom, we feel this time to learn the procedure itself is important.

We are very excited for the potential this updated Cell Phone Procedure has for creating a better learning environment for our students. We look forward to working with parents, students, and staff to continuously stay **“Focused on student learning and personal accountability,”** while attending classes at Schaumburg High School.