

FRHS: PHONE-FREE SCHOOL

WHAT'S NEW?

In support of our mission to ensure upon graduating each student will possess the skills, character, aptitude, and knowledge to successfully engage options they choose in work and post-secondary education, we have modified our student expectations regarding cell phone use at Fossil Ridge High School. These expectations align with Poudre School District's recent addendums to the district student cell phone policy.

FRHS has adopted new phone-free guidelines for students to enhance our student experience and foster a positive and healthy student culture.

We are excited to implement this change to enhance the student experience in support of the following core values:

- Healthy relationships
- Inclusion and belonging
- Focus on learning
- Collaboration
- R.I.D.G.E. values: Respect, Integrity, Determination, Gratitude, Excellence

WHY WE ARE MAKING THIS CHANGE

Along with parents and guardians, our primary goal is to nurture healthy students who enjoy enriched and fulfilling life experiences. We aim to foster authentic face-to-face peer connections that inspire curiosity and creativity in the classroom. Our vision is for students to engage in healthy social interactions.

After analyzing extensive research concerning the impact of cell phones and digital media's impact on teen mental health and academic achievement, we have revised our cell phone policy to limit cell phone use in support of our goals to support the well-being of our students and increase our focus on learning outcomes.

Cell phones can be a significant distraction to learning, not just for users, but also for peers and teachers. The constant pull for attention created by a cell phone also negatively impacts mental health and social-emotional learning. Research indicates a strong correlation between digital media and sleep disruption, reduced attention span, social comparison, and cyberbullying. Cell phone distractions impact students' ability to stay engaged in learning, focus on academics, and build healthy relationships with peers and school staff.



OUR NEW GUIDELINES

Cell phones, AirPods/ear buds and all other personal communication devices (other than student laptops) are to be turned off and stored in a backpack or locker during the entirety of instructional periods. They should not be utilized in hallways/restrooms during instructional periods either. Cell phone use is only permitted during off periods in the commons, passing periods, and lunchtime.

Students who repeatedly violate these expectations may lose the privilege of carrying these devices on campus and face disciplinary action. FRHS is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic or communication devices.

Effective starting in Aug. 2025

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Can my child still bring their phone to school?

Students will still be allowed to bring their phones to school. We expect them to be turned off and stored in a backpack/locker during instructional periods.

Will there be a way for parents to communicate with their children during the school day?

Yes! We want parents to be able to communicate with their children during the school day if necessary. Like the adult workplace, our classrooms need to be focused and productive. To ensure we accomplish this, parents have two options to communicate with their children during the school day.

- Parents can call our main office anytime at 970-488-6260 to leave a message for their child that we will deliver to their classroom.
- Parent-student communication via cell phone will still be permitted with staff permission. Students can ask their teacher to step outside the classroom door to make a phone call or text their parents in a time of need.

What happens if a student violates this new policy?

Students who violate the FRHS Cell Phone Policy are subject to one or more of the following consequences:

- 1st Offense: The phone is confiscated and kept in the main office for the remainder of the school day. Students can pick their phone up at the end of their school day in the front office.
- 2nd Offense: The phone is confiscated and kept in the main office for the remainder of the school day. The parent/guardian must pick up the phone after school from the front office.
- Multiple infractions of the FRHS Cell Phone Policy may necessitate a behavior/technology plan to support the student's compliance with the policy. Multiple infractions may lead to a formal referral and disciplinary action, including detentions and/or suspension.

Does limiting cell phone access make students less safe?

Safety is our top priority. We would not be doing this if we felt student safety would be compromised. We also recognize that in today's world, parents often feel reassured knowing they can contact their children during emergencies. Cell phone use during an emergency can lead to distractions and a lack of focus on safety protocols. Phones may also contribute to the spread of misleading information and false claims concerning emergencies, which may actually exacerbate anxiety and decrease safety in moments of crisis.

In addition, school staff are responsible for keeping students safe during the school day and they receive training so they are prepared in the event of an emergency. Each classroom is equipped with a phone, computer, intercom pager, and additional emergency communication tools.

My child uses their phone as an organizational planner and learning tool. How can they do these things without the use of their cell phone?

The types of things students would typically do with a phone to aid in organization and learning can all be completed on their school-issued laptop computer (ie. checking grades, maintaining activity calendars with homework due dates, taking pictures of a teacher's board, calculator functions, email, etc.). Often, calendars, emails, planners, to-do lists, and photos can be synced with a cloud-based device and accessed on a cell phone after school.

What if a child requires the use of a phone-based app or electronic accessory as part of an individual learning plan or medical need?

If one or more of these rules conflicts with a student's IEP or Section 504 Plan, the conflicting terms of this policy shall not apply to that student. Please contact your child's case manager and/or counselor to ensure that we have proper plans in place to begin the new school year.