

Student Cell Phone Policy

The Bethel Public School District has determined that cell phones have limited or no educational value and their use may create a distraction to the learning environment. Student possession of cell phones in the Bethel Public School District is only allowable subject to the following rules and regulations. Strict adherence to these rules and regulations is required. Additionally, the District prohibits the use of other communication devices (i.e. two-way radios, pagers, PDA's and laptops with two-way messaging capabilities) by students. The District reserves the right to define the educational value of any new electronic wireless devices that may become available in the future and to prohibit their use if they have no educational value or if such use creates learner distraction or disruption.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones. Bethel Public Schools shall not assume any responsibility for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone, or unauthorized calls made on a cell phone.

Use of Cell Phones on School Grounds

High school students may use cell phones before and after school and during the lunch period, as long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Use of cell phones during the school day is prohibited and they will be powered **off**, concealed and secured in lockers, purses, pockets, or vehicles during the academic day. *** **Cell phones are strictly prohibited in classrooms, locker rooms, restrooms, and shower facilities.** *** **HIGH school students ONLY will be allowed to use cell phones outside the building during lunch.**

Camera or Picture Phones

While the use of cell phones by students is allowed subject to certain rules, the capability of a cell phone to take, store, and transmit pictures and videos is strictly prohibited. It is the District's position that picture phones pose threats to freedoms of privacy. Additionally, picture phones can be used to exploit personal information and compromise the integrity of the educational process. Accordingly, the camera function of a cell phone is strictly prohibited on school premises at all times. Students who violate this provision of the policy will have their cell phone confiscated and held until the end of the semester following the one in which it was confiscated.

Use of Cell Phones on Buses

Cell phone usage by students while riding to and from school on the bus, or on the bus during school sponsored activities is at the discretion of the bus driver. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated. **Use of the camera function of a cell phone is still strictly prohibited while riding a bus.**

(Parent/Guardian Print name)

(Student Print name)

(Student Cell Number)

(Parent/Guardian signature)

Date

(Student signature)

Date

- Procedures for Cell Phones Offenses are listed on the back of this form.
- ***Both parents/guardians and student will sign this agreement as to their understanding of these rules. Cell phone number must be included.***

PROCEDURES FOR CELL PHONE OFFENSES

The principal or superintendent may suspend any pupil who is guilty of immorality or violation of the regulation of a public school. The suspension shall not exceed beyond the current school semester and the succeeding school semester; provided the pupil suspended shall have the right to appeal the decision of such principal, teacher or superintendent to the Board of Education of the district, which shall, upon a full investigation of the matter, determine the guilt or innocence of the pupil and its decision shall be final (70 O.S. Section 24-101).

A first offense usually is for a minimum of three days.