

## 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.

### 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**

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense:** The first time a student is using a cell phone at an inappropriate time during the school day, the cell phone will be confiscated and the student will have a conference with the principal.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense:** The second time a student is using a cell phone at an inappropriate time during the school day, the cell phone will be confiscated and the student and parent will have a conference with the principal.

**3rd Offense:** The third time a student is using a cell phone at an inappropriate time during the school day, the cell phone will be confiscated and the cell phone contract will be revoked. The student has then lost the privilege of bringing a cell phone to school for the remainder of the school year. The student will be subject to any of the following forms of discipline; (**suspension, ISD, or corporal punishment**).

**4<sup>th</sup> or more Offense:** If a student is using a cell phone at an inappropriate time during the school day, the cell phone will be confiscated and the student will face **suspension**.

**In each of the above offenses, the cell phone will be released only to the parent/guardian of the specific student.**