



Mokena Public Schools District 159

11244 Willowcrest Lane • Mokena, IL 60448-1334 • (708) 342-4900 • www.mokena159.org

September 4, 2018

Dear D159 Parents/Guardians,

This letter provides an update on appropriate possession and use of a student personal cell phone and/or other electronic devices (e.g., tablet, smart watch, etc.) while at school. This information mostly applies to Mokena Junior High School students, but I am sending this to all parents/guardians as we will follow the same practices at all Mokena School District 159 schools.

Cell phones, tablets, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices are possessed by many children today. Parents rely on their children to use these devices to communicate, but it is important that the use of these devices do not interrupt the learning environment. With this in mind, we will immediately begin allowing students to follow a “keep off and put away” practice. This allows a student to keep their phone or other personal electronic device in their book bag, or some other container where it is not visible, as long as the device is turned off (not just on vibrate or silent). We will continue to allow students to use their cell phones only for teacher or administrator designated purposes and during teacher or administrator designated times.

This communication is notification that the [2018-19 Parent/Student Handbook](#) section titled Electronic Communications (page 24) is being modified.

Beginning immediately, we will implement the practice of allowing a student to keep their cell phone and/or other personal electronic device in their book bag or some other container as long as the devices are not visible and are turned off (not just on vibrate or silent). In addition, we will immediately begin implementing the following consequences if students do not comply with this practice.

- First Offense: The cell phone and/or electronic device will be taken away from the student; the student may pick up the device(s) at the end of the school day.
- Second Offense: The cell phone and/or electronic device will be taken away from the student. The student’s parent/guardian will be contacted and will be allowed to pick up the device(s) at the end of the day.
- Third Offense: The cell phone and/or electronic device will be taken away from the student. The student’s parent/guardian will be contacted and will be allowed to pick up the device(s) at the end of the school day. If the student chooses to bring their cell phone and/or electronic device(s) back to school, they must check the device(s) in at the office every day prior to the start of the school day. Failure to check in the cell phone and/or electronic device(s) at the start of the day will result in a major referral being issued with a consequence administered.

Additional violations of this practice will be considered a behavior infraction and additional consequences identified in the [2018-19 Parent/Student Handbook](#) may be administered.

You are encouraged to contact your child’s Principal if you have questions regarding this information. We appreciate your partnership and support of these new practices.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don White, Superintendent