



CORNERSTONE  
LEARNING COMMUNITY

# No Cell Phone Policy for Students

Effective Date 8.14.2017

**CLC employs a No Cell Phone Policy for students.** Student cell phone use will not be permitted on campus either during the school day or during before/after school. If a student needs to contact their parent/guardian while on campus or on a field trip, a school phone or teacher's phone should be used.

For any class research or music listening, etc. that has been authorized by a teacher, a school computer or tablet is to be used.

Recognizing that some families may need their student to have their cell phone to use in the mornings before arriving at school and/or after leaving campus for the day, parents/guardians may authorize their student to carry a cell phone in their backpack by using the form below. The authorized cell phone may not be used during the school day, during before/after school, or during after school activities. The phone must remain turned off and in the student's backpack on the porch at all times while on campus and is not to be carried in a pocket or otherwise on a student's person.

If any student uses a cell phone while on campus, the cell phone will be confiscated requiring a parent/guardian to pick it up and sign for it in the office, which closes at 4pm. Cell phones can only be released by an administrator and after the cell phone policy infraction form has been signed by the student AND the parent.

In the event of an urgent communication need that can only be addressed by using the student's cell phone as opposed to a school or teacher's phone (i.e. "the office doesn't have mom's new cell number and I need to look it up"), the student must request permission and complete the call or text need in the presence of a teacher. The phone is then to be immediately turned off and returned to the student's backpack.

## ***Why a no-cell phone policy?***

For several reasons . . .

- Cell phones act as a deterrent from fully engaging in the rich experiences we strive to provide for our students. We've found that they can be a distraction from learning, for the student with the phone as well as others who may be interested in what they are doing on/with their phone.
- Our internet filter provides us data on what students are trying to access on school devices and via our wi-fi, but cannot monitor or filter the information students can access on their cell phones. Some of what they are trying to access is very inappropriate. While we feel confident that the filters on our network are appropriately restrictive, effective, and monitored/updated regularly, we have no control over the data/websites/content students access on campus using their cell phone networks. Given that we have many ages of students on our campus, we feel it is important to have policies that ensure everyone's safety and well being.
- Students do not need their phones for research or class work since we have internet accessible computers and devices for them to use. If
- Parents who need to communicate with students while they are in our care, are asked to do so through our channels. Eliminating cell phone access on campus help ensure that parents are communicating with students through the proper channels. This is in part to protect the student as well as to make sure we know where the student is, what is going on, and who they are leaving with.
  - Scenario A: A parent texts, "I'm here. Come on down." Student, "K," and then leaves without telling staff/faculty.
  - Scenario B: A student texts their parent from the bathroom that they aren't feeling well. Student goes down between classes and leaves with the parent without notifying the office or a teacher.

## ***But, but, but . . .***

- "I use my phone for music during class!"  
*No problem. If it is a class where you are allowed to listen to music while you work, you can use Pandora or Spotify or some other music streaming platform on a computer.*

- “I need to text my mom if I feel ill!”  
*No problem. Just let a teacher know you aren't feeling well and we'll help you contact your parents from the office or a teacher's phone (if on a field trip).*
- “I need to coordinate with my pick-up.”  
*No problem. The after school staff has a cell phone with texting capability that your parents are welcome to communicate with you through. The office staff can also help you contact your parent/guardian if needed.*
- “My teacher needs me to use it for research!”  
*No problem. We are working to increase the number of computers accessible to teachers in areas where computers typically aren't used such as music and art.”*
- “I need it to take pictures on a field trip.”  
*The administration and faculty will work together to identify any potential needs regarding exceptions to the policy and possible solutions. Any potential exceptions will need prior approval by the Director and written notification to parents within the affected class(es). See below.*

### ***Potential Exceptions***

Any requests for exceptions to this policy (overnight trips or approved assistive devices, for example) will need to be discussed with the Director well in advance to determine if an exception to the policy can be allowed.

- If an exception is allowed, it must:
  - Be approved by the Director in advance.
  - Have clearly defined guidelines and expectations in writing that includes the consequences for violation of the guidelines and expectations.
  - Be provided in writing to the parent(s) of all students impacted by the exception.
  - Have a signed acknowledgement from all impacted students and their parent(s) agreeing to the guidelines and expectations for the one-time exception to the no cell phone policy.

### ***Consequences***

- Infraction #1:
  - Reflective lunch (or other age-appropriate consequences for lower grades)
  - Immediate confiscation of device to be delivered to the front office
  - Parent must pick up the cell phone from an administrator AFTER the cell phone infraction form has been signed by the student AND the parent
- Infraction #2:
  - Reflective lunch (or other age-appropriate consequences for lower grades)
  - Immediate confiscation of device to be delivered to the front office
  - Parent must pick up the cell phone from an administrator AFTER the cell phone infraction form has been signed by the student AND the parent
  - Student will no longer be able to have their cell phone in their backpack on campus. The student (or parent) will be required to drop the cell phone off in the office when arriving at campus in the morning and pick it up from the office prior to leaving for the day.
- Infraction #3:
  - Reflective lunch (or other age-appropriate consequences for lower grades)
  - Immediate confiscation of device to be delivered to the front office
  - Parent must pick up the cell phone from an administrator AFTER the cell phone infraction form has been signed by the student AND the parent
  - Student will no longer be allowed to have their cell phone on campus for any reason
- Infraction #4:
  - If a student has a cell phone on campus after the 3rd infraction, further disciplinary action will be taken.

# CLC Student Cell Phone Authorization

## Parent Authorization:

I authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to have a cell phone in their backpack for use before they arrive on campus and/or after they leave campus. I understand that the cell phone is to remain turned off and in the student's backpack at all times during the school day including during before/after school and after school activities. The cell phone is to be turned off and stowed in the student's backpack prior to arriving on campus and is not to be used until the student has left campus for the day.

I understand that if my child uses the phone while on campus in violation of the policy above, it will be confiscated and I will need to personally pick it up from the office, which closes at 4pm. I also understand that on the 3rd offense, my child will no longer be authorized to bring a phone to school.

## Student Acknowledgement:

In order to carry my cell phone in my backpack at school, I agree to the following requirements:

- I will not use my cell phone at any time during the school day including before/after school or during after school activities, nor while riding the bus.
- I will turn off my cell phone and store it in my backpack prior to arriving at school each day.
- I will leave my cell phone turned off and in my backpack until after I leave campus for the day.
- If I am caught using my cell phone, it will be immediately confiscated. My parent/guardian will be required to pick it up from the office. If my cell phone has been confiscated 3 times, I will no longer be allowed to carry a cell phone in my backpack.

## Consequences:

- Infraction #1:
  - Reflective lunch (or other age-appropriate consequences for lower grades)
  - Immediate confiscation of device to be delivered to the front office
  - Parent must pick up the cell phone from an administrator AFTER the cell phone infraction form has been signed by the student AND the parent
- Infraction #2:
  - All consequences details in Infraction #1 AND student will no longer be able to have their cell phone in their backpack on campus. The phone must be dropped off in the office when arriving at campus in the morning and picked up from the office prior to leaving for the day.
- Infraction #3:
  - All consequences details in Infraction #1 AND student will no longer be allowed to have their cell phone on campus for any reason
- Infraction #4:
  - If a student has a cell phone on campus after the 3rd infraction, further disciplinary action will be taken.

I understand the cell phone policies and consequences detailed above and agree abide by the requirements listed.

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Signature of Student

Date

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Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date