

Office of Children's Mental Health Quarterly Meeting

Cell Phone Policy Panel

Friday, May 2, 2025

What is the MCPASD approach to personal technology?

The district leaves policy decisions up to each school, with the expectation that a policy exists.

What is [Glacier Creek Middle School's Phone Policy](#)?

- No personal technology usage from 8:00 am - 3:36 pm.
- May use school-issued devices with adult permission only.
- Absolutely no technology in restrooms and hallways.
- If inclement weather, Chromebook usage allowed at lunch. Otherwise, no tech usage at lunch whatsoever.

Compared to high school: personal technology allowed during passing times and lunch times; no personal tech during instructional time.

What happens if the students violate the policy?

Students are trusted to follow the policy. If students violate the policy, infractions are treated individually and according to a progressive discipline model. Staff track phone infractions separate from other personal tech infractions on a schoolwide spreadsheet.

1. Teacher gives student warning
2. Student turns in tech to office & picks up at end of day; Admin notifies home
3. Student turns in tech to office; parent must pick up at end of day; Admin notifies home
4. Student turns in tech to office; Admin notifies home; phone stays home or in the office for 1 week
5. Student turns in tech to office; Admin notifies home; phone stays home or in the office for 1 month
6. Student turns in tech to office; Admin notifies home; phone stays home or in the office for remainder of semester

When did we introduce the policy?

1. 2024 - 2025
 - a. Expanded the definition of personal tech to include cell phones, headphones, airpods, speakers, iPads and tablets, etc.
2. 2023 - 2024
 - a. Added smartwatches for time only
 - b. No personal device usage at all; teachers can authorize music in headphones on Chromebooks
3. 2021 - 2023
 - a. Phones & headphones
 - b. 5th grade - no personal tech
 - c. 6-8th grades - up to teacher discretion
 - d. Lunch & recess - no personal tech; Chromebooks allowed during recess

- e. Hallways, bathrooms, locker rooms - no personal tech allowed ever
- 4. 2020 - 2021 → COVID, surveyed staff
- 5. 2017 - 2020 → up to teacher discretion but no phones allowed in bathrooms or locker rooms (state recording laws)

How was the rollout?

- Garnering staff input and support was key
- Staff were ready for a schoolwide policy so it didn't feel like staff against other staff
- Student buy in started slowly, but then moved quickly
- Trickier at the older grades (our students typically get a smartphone in 6th grade)

What has the impact on students been?

Qualitative/Anecdotal Data:

- Greater consistency for students and families = easier communication and understanding
- Fewer power struggles over phone use
- Students are more focused on learning in classrooms
- Students report if others are on their personal devices
- Positive feedback from most families
- Less overall anxiety around photos being taken of them, social media issues

Quantitative Data: Number of Phone Infractions

	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
2023 - 2024	20	14	113	258
2024 - 2025	12	19	88	174

How does social media play into this?

- There are fewer social media issues due to the policy
- There are extra levels of consequences in our Code of Conduct if students use technology to record incidents at school or to harass or perpetuate conflict online
- We also build very strong relationships with families so we can bring families together if/when social media bullying occurs on or off school grounds.

What do we do when parents push back (anxiety, etc.)?

- Like all policies, there will be times when individuals have needs that require flexibility
 - Students can always keep their device on them (unless they've violated the policy lots of times)
 - If they lose the privilege to keep it on them, they can store it in the Main Office and still access it for parent contact whenever they need to
 - Students have individual plans that they can message a parent at anytime – they just go to Student Services or the Main Office with an anytime pass as part of their plan