

Student Cell Phone Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to regulate the use of cell phones during school hours in order to minimize distractions, encourage student safety, and maintain an academic focus in the classrooms.

Policy Details

1. Cell Phone Usage

- **During School Hours:**
 - Students at Par Excellence STEM Academy ("PAR") are not permitted to use cell phones during school hours, from arrival in the building through dismissal at the end of the day, except under circumstances approved by a teacher or administrator.
 - Any cell phone brought in to PAR by a student must be stored in a designated area in the classroom upon arrival at School and can be retrieved at dismissal.

2. Exceptions for Emergency Use

- **Emergency Contact:**
 - Students may use School phones or be allowed to use their cell phones under the supervision of School staff in case of an emergency to contact parents/guardians. Parents are asked to call the School office in an emergency requiring contact with the student.
 - School administrators will have discretion to allow cell phone use in exceptional circumstances that require immediate attention.
 - Students requiring the use of cell phones for medical or educational reasons may do so only in compliance with their Individualized Education Program or Section 504 Plan.

3. Educational Purposes

- **Supervised Use:**
 - The Children's Internet Privacy Act of 2000 (CIPA) requires PAR to monitor online activity of students during school hours. Therefore, the use of cell phones for educational purposes is highly restricted and, to the extent possible, all online activities will be conducted using school-issued technology equipped with an internet monitoring software.
 - In the case that cell phones are used for educational purposes at the discretion of the teacher, such use will be strictly monitored and will be purpose specific. Any use of a cell phone outside of the specific directions of the teacher will subject to disciplinary options as further detailed below.

4. Consequences of Policy Violation

- **First Incident:**
 - Verbal warning and phone held by the teacher until the end of the day.
- **Repeated Incidents:**
 - Parent/guardian notification and meeting to discuss the repeated disregard of this Policy.
 - Potential administrative-issued consequences, such as after-school detention, in-school alternate placement, or out-of-school suspension, may be issued in cases where cell phone misuse is recurrent or violates the student code of conduct.

5. Policy Communication

- **Policy Awareness:**
 - Parents/guardians will be informed of this Policy at the start of the school year through the Parent / Student Handbook and during parent-teacher meetings.
 - Updates or changes to the Policy will be communicated via School newsletters and/or the School's website.
 - All classrooms must have this Policy clearly posted.

Conclusion

This Policy aims to balance the benefits of technology with the potential distractions cell phones can cause in an elementary educational setting. Par Excellence STEM Academy is committed to enforcing this Policy uniformly to ensure a productive and safe learning environment for all students.