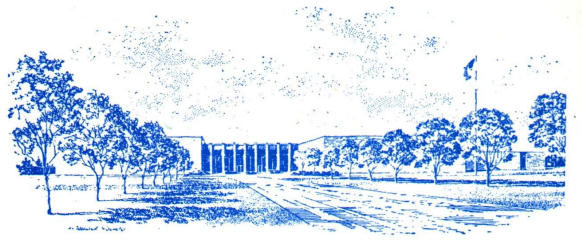


Milton High School

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August 27, 2019

Dear Milton High School Families:

We are excited for the 2019-2020 school year and look forward to working with you. We are writing to share new cell phone procedures for grades 9-12 at Milton High School that will begin on the first day of school.

Cell phones have become a way of life, a technological convenience that has impacted all of our lives in one way or another. However, in the school environment, cell phones can be a distraction, interruption, and a method of inappropriate use. The ringing of the cell phone or text-messaging during class takes away from valuable instructional time and student learning.

We will provide a cell phone holder to be utilized during all instructional classroom time. Study halls, teacher advisory (TA), library, and clinics are included as instructional time for students. Students will be expected to put their phone in the cell phone holder as they enter class. If it is in their backpack or locker, they must leave it there for the instructional block. If a student gets a pass to leave class, the cell phone must be placed in the cell phone holder or remain in their locker or backpack. We are aware that some students have smartwatches and other technology, and we ask that they respect the instructional time by attending to the instruction. If this becomes a problem, parents may be contacted individually.

Students may use their cell phones during passing time, during lunch, and before/after school. **(Reminder: all students are issued a school iPad each school year for their academic work. It is very important that students bring their iPad permission forms with them to receive their iPad on the first day of school.)** Cell phones will not be allowed to replace iPads for classroom use. Remember to charge iPads prior to school each day.

We realize this is a change for our students, but the research is resoundingly clear that cell phone use during the instructional time is detrimental to learning. We understand that parents rely on communicating with their students during the school day. If you have an urgent matter that cannot wait until passing time/lunch/before/after school, please call the main office at 802-893-5463 and Darlene Devincenzi, attendance administrative assistant, can get the message to your student, if needed.

Parents and students should expect the following responses if students do not immediately place their phone in the holder at the start of class:

- If the phone is seen during instructional time, the student will be directed to place the phone in the holder.
- If a student refuses that request, then a Student Support Team member will come to the classroom to have a conversation with the student. The Student Support Team member will collect the cell phone and keep it until the end of the instructional block.
- If a student refuses to give the cell phone to the Student Support Team member, the parent will be called to talk directly to their student, and if needed to pick up the cell phone from school.

Our goal is to create a safe environment, conducive to learning, and free of all distractions that hinder the learning process. We thank you for your support through this transition. Part of our work is to help students learn a productive way to use technology in their workplace.

Below are a couple of resources for understanding the impact of cell phone use:

1. [There's a Cell Phone in Your Student's Head](#)
2. [Our Phones are Ruining Our Relationships](#)

If you have any questions, celebrations, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 893-5463.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Anne Blake, Co-Principal
Mary Jane Stinson, Co-Principal