



# Middle School Electronics, Cell Phone & Smart Device Policy

## The Policy

Students are strongly encouraged to leave all electronic devices, including cell phones at home. Research is clear that the use of these devices strongly interferes with student learning. All cell phones or other electronic devices shall be kept turned off in their bag. Cell phones/electronic devices are not to be visible at any time while on campus, including before/aftercare and extracurricular activities. If students need to contact a parent, they must talk to the Director, Dean, or their own advisor or own teacher.

## Consequences

If a phone or smart device is visible on the student, a phone or smart device goes off in class or anywhere in the building, or the student is using the phone in any way, the phone or smart device will be confiscated and given to an administrator. Any teacher or member of the school's leadership has the authority to confiscate these items if this rule is broken. If the student refuses to give the device to the adult, the offense will shift to a third offense and will result in suspension until a parent meeting. The phone or smart device will be only be released to the parent/guardian after they sign the applicable offense form, and follow the related requirements, based on the number of offenses:

1. **First Offense:** The device may be released to parents/guardians as soon as they sign the offense form.
2. **Second Offense:** The device may be released to parent/guardian upon signing the offense form, and the student will miss community time (ie. morning assembly, lunch and recess) to work on a restorative project, research paper, and presentation, that involves research on the effects of technology/social media on education.
3. **Third Offense:** The device may be released to the parent/guardian upon signing the offense form, and the student is out of school suspended for one school day. The student and parent/guardian must attend a restorative meeting before the student attends class.
4. **Subsequent offenses:** Any additional offenses will result in an additional indefinite suspension until another restorative meeting takes place.

## \*Filming or Capturing Photos

Any student who has a smart device out and films or photographs on school property will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or loss of seat.

## \*Refusal to Follow Policy

**Students:** Inappropriate behavior using a cell phone or smart device, and/or refusing to give the device to a St. Marcus adult will result in the student facing disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.

**Parents:** If the parent/guardian chooses not to follow the policy and demands the phone back immediately, the phone will be returned, and the student will be given a five-day at-home suspension.

## All Other Electronics

All other electronics not specifically noted, (i.e. mp3 player, iPod, iPad, tablets, smartwatches, air pods, Bluetooth headphones etc.) follow the Electronics, Cell Phone & Smart Device Policy

## Lost or Damaged Electronics

Please be advised that St. Marcus is not responsible for lost or damaged phones, smart devices, or other electronic devices.

## Electronics during Before Care, Aftercare, and Sports Practice

Students' electronic devices should not be seen at all during the day, including in before care, aftercare, or at sporting practices. Students should not be on them in the locker rooms or bathrooms. If a student is on their phone they will be asked to put it away, and it will be reported to the dean. Students may need to use the cell phone to call for a ride, but this would be after practice and under the supervision of the teacher or coach. Students who repeatedly violate the cell phone policy could lose playing time, or be removed from before care, aftercare or athletic programs.