



## **HVM Cell Phone & Smart Watch Policy**

HVM discourages students from bringing cellphones, smartwatches, and other similar devices to school. We recognize, however, that for some families, students carrying a phone or wearing a smartwatch is a necessity. HVM is not responsible for damage, loss, or theft of student phones.

### **During school hours (including school field trips and recess):**

Once students enter the school building, they must place their phones, earbuds, and/or electronics directly into their bags. A student may not bring their cell phone into their classroom, advisory, recess, lunch, or other school space.

[Recent studies](#) provide abundant evidence that “the mere presence of a smartphone reduces a person’s ability to focus.” In one study, students who were asked to leave their phones in another room did better on cognitive tests than those who were permitted to have their phones with them, even when the devices were face down on their desk or in a bag. In the experiment, even students who said they weren’t thinking consciously about their cell phones still experienced a loss in their ability to focus and resist distractions.

Because we care about our students and their ability to learn, we strictly enforce our policy of not allowing cell phones during the school day.

If a student doesn't follow this policy, a staff person will remind the student to bring the phone to their locker or cubby. If a second reminder is needed, the student will be asked to turn over their device for the remainder of the day. Upon conclusion of the school day, the student may retrieve the cell phone/electronic device. If the student continues to disregard policy expectations, further disciplinary action may be taken by the Dean of Students.

### **Cell Phone Confiscation:**

If a student has multiple violations of the school’s cell phone policy, the Dean of Students will contact the student’s parent/caregiver to ask them to come to the school to pick up the phone. The phone will remain in possession of the Dean of Students until a responsible adult is able to pick it up from the school. A family member may also be asked to attend a parent-teacher meeting with the student present.

### **Refusal:**

If a student refuses to give their phone to a staff person due to their violation of the school’s cell phone policy, The Dean of Students will meet with the student to review school policy and to

reset expectations for compliance with school rules. Consequences may be given, according to HVM's Code of Conduct.

**Exceptions**

Teachers and/or Special Instructors may choose to allow earbuds for Chromebook and other educational lessons. The earbuds should be placed back into the student's bag once the lesson concludes.

**\* The HVM Cell Phone Policy also applies to Apple/Smart watches and other electronic devices that use WiFi or an internet connection.**