



NO CELL, BELL TO BELL

Family & Student Guide

Learning First. Every Student. Every Day.

**Personal Mobile Devices Stay Put Away
THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE ACADEMIC DAY.**

WHY

Phones and other personal devices can be a major distraction during the school day. **Keeping devices away helps students focus on learning, connect with one another, and supports a safer, healthier school environment.**

Maryland has also passed the *Joanne C. Benson Maryland Phone-Free School Act*, requiring school districts to limit student device use beginning in 2027–2028. MCPS is starting the transition this year so students, staff and families have time to adjust.

WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

Students may bring a phone or personal mobile device to school — but it must be put away and unused for the entire Academic Day.

That means devices stay away during:

Class • Hallways • Passing Periods • Lunch • Recess • Restrooms

DO

- ✓ Put your device away before the school day begins.
- ✓ Keep it away until the dismissal bell.
- ✓ Follow staff directions.
- ✓ Use school-issued technology when directed by your teacher.

Don't

- ✗ Text, call or use social media.
 - ✗ Take photos, video or audio recordings.
 - ✗ Use AirPods, earbuds or headphones connected to a personal device.
 - ✗ Use a smartwatch or other personal device during the Academic Day.
- Before school? ✓ After school? ✓ During the Academic Day? Put it away.**

WHAT HAPPENS IF...?

- Unauthorized use will result in discipline aligned with the MCPS Student Code of Conduct and **will include your device being taken away and secured until the end of the school day.**
- Repeated violations may result in additional consequences, **including not being permitted to bring the device to school.**

IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS: Some students may use a device when specifically authorized for an IEP, 504 Plan, medical or other approved accommodation, emergency or caregiving need, language translation, or another permitted school purpose.

MCPS is not responsible for personal devices that are lost, stolen or damaged at school.