

# Lake Catholic High School

# Cell Phone Policy

Dear Lake Catholic Parents and Guardians,

I hope this email finds you well. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our school's new cell phone policy and provide you with important details regarding its implementation.

Our policy is reinforced by the recent enactment of the Ohio House Bill 250, signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine. This legislation encourages schools to establish clear guidelines on cell phone usage to promote better educational outcomes. You can read more about the bill [here](#).

## POLICY OVERVIEW

Lake Catholic High School permits students to bring cell phones to campus; however, in alignment with our commitment to fostering a focused learning environment, we have established guidelines for their usage. Cell phones must be stored in students' lockers from the start of the school day until the final bell. **This policy also includes smart watches, headphones, earbuds, etc.**

## DETAILED POLICY

Outlined below are the key points of our cell phone policy:

- **Arrival at School:** Students must place their cell phones in their lockers upon arriving on campus.
- **End of the School Day:** Cell phones may only be retrieved from lockers after the final bell.
- **Emergency Situations:** Students requiring emergency phone access may seek permission from an administrator or office staff.
- **Consequences for Non-Compliance:** The policy includes a progressive discipline approach for non-compliance.
- **Exceptions:** Students with medical conditions or specific needs may request approval from the administration.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

To address any queries you may have, we have compiled a list of FAQs regarding the policy.

### Why is this policy being implemented?

The policy aims to reduce distractions and create a more conducive learning environment. This initiative is backed by the new House bill signed by Governor DeWine. Other local schools and schools around the nation with similar policies are experiencing significant improvements in student focus, academic performance, and mental health. The Governor requires a policy to be in place before the 2025-26 school year, but with current data from across Ohio and other states, we believe it is important to implement this policy sooner than later.

### What if I need to contact my child during the day?

In case of an emergency, contact the school office. They will relay the message to your child. For non-emergencies, we recommend communicating before or after school hours.



## FAQs (continued)

### Can students use their phones during lunch or breaks?

No. Phones must remain in lockers throughout the entire school day, including lunch and breaks. This encourages social interaction and minimizes distractions.

### Can students use their cell phones in certain classes despite the school's policy?

While the school maintains a general no cell phone policy, there are specific courses where cell phone use may be permitted for educational purposes. Faculty members and administrators are currently developing the policies and procedures to govern cell phone use in these classes. Details on these guidelines will be discussed with students when the school year begins, ensuring that everyone understands the expectations and rules.

### What happens if a student is caught with their phone during school hours?

The phone will be confiscated, and the student will face consequences based on the offense number (see policy details).

### Are there any exceptions to this rule?

Yes. Students with medical conditions or specific needs that require phone access can seek approval from the administration. Medical documentation will be required.

### How can students access their phones in case of an emergency?

Students should inform a teacher or administrator if they need to make an emergency call. The office phone will be available for such situations. Students will not be permitted to use their cell phone for emergency calls.

### What measures are in place to ensure the safety of students' phones in lockers?

Students are responsible for securing their lockers. The school is not liable for lost or stolen phones, so it is crucial to keep lockers locked and avoid sharing combinations.

### How will this policy be communicated to students and parents?

The policy will be included in the student handbook, discussed during orientation and class meetings, and communicated through school newsletters and emails to parents.

## COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

We are committed to ensuring that students and parents are well-informed about our cell phone policy. The policy will be included in the student handbook, discussed during orientation, and communicated through school newsletters and emails to parents.

We believe that by adhering to this policy, we can create a more conducive learning environment that promotes student focus, academic performance, and overall physical and mental health.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,



**Thomas McKrill**

Principal  
Lake Catholic High School

