



Berlin Middle High School Updated Code of Conduct 2024-2025 School Year

August 2024





Introduction

- **Welcome and Introduction**
 - Introduce Mrs. Meghan Reynolds
 - **Overview of the Updated Code of Conduct**
 - Prohibited Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices During the School
 - More Emphasis on Restorative Practices
 - **Objective**
 - To ensure a focused and safe learning environment
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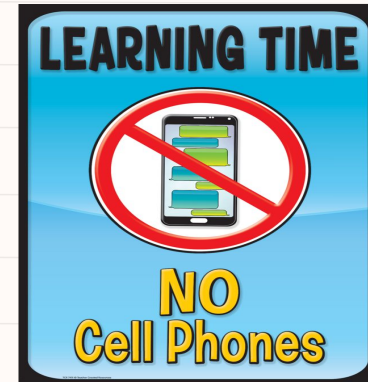


Updated Code of Conduct Details

- Effective Date Starting this school year
 - Beginning of the school year
 - Policy Duration
 - 7:20 AM to 2:07 PM
 - Storage Requirement
 - All cell phones and electronic devices must be stored in students' assigned lockers
 - Security
 - Each student is assigned a locker and lock for their personal use and belongings
 - *They should not share it*
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Code of Conduct 2024-2025

- BMHS CODE OF CONDUCT 2024-2025
- UPDATED CELL PHONE AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY
- LETTER SENT HOME VIA EMAIL





Exceptions to Updated Policy

- A teacher may request students to bring their cell phones to class for instructional purposes only. This request must be clearly communicated and authorized by the teacher.
 - Students granted administrative approval and/or require accommodation are permitted to wear designated headphones during the school day.
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Rationale and Benefits

- **Reducing Distractions**
 - Minimizes interruptions during instructional time
 - Encourages engagement and attention in class
 - **Enhancing Social Interaction**
 - Promotes face-to-face communication and social skills
 - **Improve Focus and Productivity**
 - Helps students concentrate on academic tasks and classroom activities
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Rationale and Benefits

- **Distraction and Lower Academic Performance**

- A study published in the journal, “*Computers in Human Behavior*” found that students who do not use cell phones during class score a full letter grade higher on exams compared to students who do use them.

- **Promoting a Safe Environment**

- Reduces the risk of cyberbullying and inappropriate content sharing
- Ensures a respectful and focused school culture

- **Health Benefits**

- Increased screen time, including the use of mobile devices, has been associated with higher rates of anxiety and depression among adolescents. The “*Journal of Adolescent Health*” reported that excessive smartphone use can lead to sleep disturbances and poorer mental health outcomes.
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Addressing Concerns

Possible Concerns From Parents and Students

Emergency Contact

- Parents may worry about not being able to contact their children during the day

BMHS Protocols

- *School office available for urgent messages; emergency protocols in place*

Reliance on Technology

- Students accustomed to using devices for reminders or assignments

BMHS Protocols

- *Students can use either their chromebooks or school planner*
 - *Each student is assigned a chromebook*
 - *Each middle school student is provided a planner*
 - *When requested, we will provide a planner for any high school student*
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“Change is Difficult!”

- **Understanding the Difficulty**
 - Recognizing that adapting to this new policy may be challenging
 - Acknowledging the significant role of technology in students' lives
 - **Focus on Student Wellbeing**
 - Emphasizing that the policy is implemented with the students' best interests in mind
 - Aimed at fostering a more conducive learning environment and promoting overall wellbeing
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Next Steps and Support

- **Open Communication**
 - Encouraging ongoing dialogue with parents, students, and staff
 - Providing channels for feedback and concerns
 - **Resources and Support**
 - Offering guidance on alternative ways to stay organized and communicate
 - Ensuring support for students during the transition period
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Conclusion

- In Conclusion...

- Based on different research, prohibiting cell phones and other electronic devices in middle and high schools can lead to improved academic performance, better mental health, and a more positive school environment. This updated policy aims to support students' academic and personal development by minimizing distractions and promoting a safe, inclusive, and focused learning atmosphere





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Questions & Answers

- Open floor for questions, feedback, and discussion

