

# **St. John Fisher School Cell Phone Policy**

Grades 7 & 8

We believe that minimizing cell phone use during the school day helps students build stronger focus, healthier relationships, and more responsible digital habits. The purpose of this policy is to eliminate classroom distractions and promote greater academic engagement by minimizing the presence of cell phones during the school day. It aims to foster in-person communication and community-building among students while also preventing the misuse of devices during instructional time. Additionally, the policy aims to ensure student safety, protect personal privacy, and minimize the risk of phones being lost, damaged, or stolen.

To support a focused, respectful, and distraction-free learning environment, St. John Fisher School has established the following cell phone policy for all 7th and 8th-grade students:

## **Daily Procedure**

- All students must turn in their cell phones upon entering the building each morning.
- Phones will be secured in a locked storage system for the duration of the school day.
- Students will retrieve their phones at dismissal under the supervision of staff.

## **Consequences for Violations**

If a student does not turn in his/her phone:

- First Offense: The phone will be confiscated, and a detention will be issued. Parents will be notified.
- Further Offenses: Additional detentions and/or escalated disciplinary action will be taken, up to administrative review of the privilege to bring a phone to school.

If a student is found using a phone during the school day without permission, it will be considered a violation of the policy, and consequences will follow the same progression as above.

## **Serious Misuse: Recording Policy**

At no time may a student use a cell phone (or any device) to record, photograph, or video another student without explicit staff permission. This is a serious violation of school rules and student privacy.

- Any instance of unauthorized recording will result in immediate suspension and may lead to expulsion, depending on the severity of the incident.

## Grades 1-6

Students in any other grade who bring a cell phone or personal device to school must ensure it is turned off upon arrival. The device must be placed in the designated or assigned location in their homeroom or classroom at the start of the day. Devices will remain stored and untouched throughout the school day and may only be retrieved from the teacher after the final dismissal bell. This policy is designed to support a focused learning environment and maintain school-wide consistency in managing personal devices.