



To: ACES Parents/Guardians

Date: August 2023

RE: Cell Phones / Smart Phones / Communicative Technology

We will be continuing our cell phone/communication technology procedures at Avenue City School. Students will be asked to either not bring their phones to school or to check them in until the day is over. These items will be kept securely until the end of the day. This would include smart watches that connect to their phones or any other electronic device they bring that connects to the internet. Students will be required to check phones in with their classroom teacher when the school day begins and then pick them up each day upon dismissal. As always, if student-parent contact is needed you may call the office.

This change is due to many factors, a few of which are listed below:

- Students are not allowed to have these items during the Missouri Assessment Program.
- Students taking videos and pictures of other students in the bathroom and locker rooms.
- Students making audio recordings of test reviews and listening to them while taking a test.
- Pictures / Videos being taken of other students in the school and then posting to social media.
- Conflicts that begin on social media or through text messages during the school day.
- Research shows that the presence of mobile phones in the classroom has a negative impact on student learning.

As always, we feel that the best way to contact your child during the school day is to call the office for any types of messages or changes to their normal bus/pickup routine. We would encourage you to continue this practice and not rely on messaging your child.

Student devices will be securely kept and returned upon dismissal or they may choose not to bring them at all. Any student who violates this new procedure will have their phone taken and a parent or guardian will be required to pick it up. Second offense will result in the same, plus the addition of detention.

I appreciate your support in this as we strive to help our children understand the importance of their education and the need to disconnect from the electronic distractions that take away from their learning. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me.

Sincerely,

Chase Holcumbrink
Principal