



Expanded Cell Phone & Electronic Device Policy

Starting this school year, WISH will not allow student cell phones on campus. We are one of many schools in the city implementing this policy in the first semester, ahead of LAUSD's district-wide mandate for the second semester. While we value technology, we also believe in the importance of fostering personal connections in an environment free from distractions. Our decision is supported by extensive research on the impact of cell phones in schools. (See some links at the bottom of this email.)

Can I bring my cell phone to campus?

No, students at WISH Community School (TK-8) and WISH Academy High School (9-12) are not permitted to bring phones or wireless earbuds onto campus. This includes storing them in backpacks or lockers. The campus is defined as all loading and unloading areas, buildings, and campus grounds, including before or after school, class time, passing periods, lunch periods, after school detention or tutorials, emergency drills, extracurricular practices, and field trips.

If I need a cell phone for after school, can I store it?

Yes! You can drop off your phone in our electronic device pockets at the gate when you arrive in the morning. Your device will be secured in the main office and returned at the end of the day.

What other devices are not allowed on campus?

Other prohibited devices include wireless earbuds, smartwatches, portable gaming devices, radios, MP3 players, video or audio recorders, DVD players, cameras, and any other electronic devices unless prior permission has been obtained from campus administration.

What if my child uses their phone for research or learning?

Even when turned off, the mere presence of a cell phone can inhibit learning. Ringing or vibrating phones disrupt classes, and phones can be used for cheating, taking unauthorized photos, or cyberbullying. Chromebooks will be provided to students for any research or learning needs.

What about safety?

During a lockdown, it's crucial that classrooms remain silent, free from the distractions of phones. According to [Jaclyn Schildkraut](#), a researcher on school and mass shootings and executive director of the Regional Gun Violence Research Consortium at the Rockefeller Institute of Government, people using phones "lose all awareness of what's going on around them," which can increase the risk of harm.

How does my family get in touch with me during the school day?

Parents can contact the school office to reach their child. If a student needs to make a call during the day, they may use a school phone with permission from a teacher.

What if my child has an emergency and needs to contact me?

In case of an emergency, students can immediately request to use a school phone, and staff will facilitate communication with parents.



What happens if I am caught with a cell phone?

Violating this policy will result in disciplinary action:

- **First Violation:** Device confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Warning given to the student. Incident logged.
- **Second Violation:** Device confiscated and returned to a parent. Warning given to both the student and parent. Incident logged.
- **Third Violation:** Device confiscated and returned at a later time. Notice given to both the student and parent. Incident logged.

How will the school ensure that all students follow this policy?

Our staff will be stationed at multiple places to supervise and closely monitor student compliance. Any violations will be handled according to the disciplinary actions outlined in this policy.

Can exceptions be made for students with special needs?

Yes, accommodations can be made on a case-by-case basis with prior approval from campus administration. Please contact the school office to discuss your child's specific needs.

What else do I need to know?

Failure to comply with a staff directive to turn in a device will be treated as a violation of school policy and subject to disciplinary action. Placing a phone on vibrate or texting is not considered "off" and is prohibited. Recording, videotaping, browsing, or posting to social media on campus is also prohibited.

Research Links:

"The Impact of Mobile Phones on Student Learning" - This study discusses how the presence of mobile phones can negatively affect student concentration and academic performance. [Link to study](#)

"How Smartphones Are Harming Kids' Mental Health" - An article detailing the effects of phone use on mental health and learning environments. [Link to article](#)

"Cell Phones in the Classroom: Policy and Research" - An overview of policies and research on the impact of cell phones in schools. [Link to overview](#)

"Phone Free Schools"

<https://www.afterbabel.com/p/phone-free-schools>

"The Anxious Generation"

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/huberman-lab/id1545953110?i=1000658427329>