



December 11, 2024

Dear Parent-Guardian:

As you may be aware, the growing presence of cell phones and social media apps has had a significant impact on student learning and engagement. This technology is part of our world and how we create a positive high school learning experience balancing this technology is a priority. At FVHS, our goal is to ensure that students have access to in-depth, real-world learning experiences that align with North Carolina's Standard Course of Study and enable them to achieve their highest potential. If you would like to read further research about the impacts cellphones and various social media apps have on the lives of teenagers, please access a great [report from the U.S. Surgeon General](#). This report is very informative.

To support our students in reaching their full academic potential, FVHS has dedicated the first quarter of this school year to studying, developing, and testing a comprehensive Cell Phone Policy for the entire school. I am writing to update you on these efforts and to introduce the new Fuquay-Varina High School Cell Phone Policy.

During the first quarter, the FVHS School Improvement Team collaborated closely with staff and students to develop a new policy aimed at reducing cell phone distractions in our classrooms. This process included piloting multiple policy options in classrooms and gathering valuable feedback from both staff and students. As a result, FVHS is proud to implement this cell phone policy schoolwide starting on January 22, 2025 which is day one of the second (spring) semester. The policy has been thoughtfully designed to reflect two key principles: (a) cell phone use should be limited during class to maximize focus and learning, and (b) as we prepare students for the real world, it is essential to help them practice managing and balancing appropriate cell phone use.

Policy:

In an attempt to limit distractions to learning, all classrooms will contain a designated space for cell phones during class sessions. Cell phones will remain unused unless otherwise approved by the teacher.

Violations of the FVHS cell phone policy will be dealt with through the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct.

Notable exceptions:

- Students with documented medical needs that include the use of a phone to track vital medical data will keep their devices with them but still out of sight unless medically required.
- Students will be allowed access to their devices during emergency situations (e.g. Code Red Lockdown).
- Students will be allowed access to their devices during weather, fire, and/or inclement weather drills.

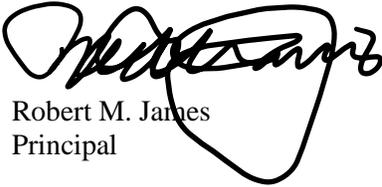
“The mission of Fuquay-Varina High School is to provide a relevant and engaging education and graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers.”

The staff at FVHS recognizes that the success of our new Cell Phone Policy requires the support of our entire school community. As partners in your child's education, we ask for your help in the following ways:

1. **Follow school policies for checking students out:** Adhering to these procedures ensures minimal classroom interruptions.
2. **Limit direct communication during class time:** If you need to contact your child, please do so during class transitions or lunch for vital matters, or call the school directly for assistance. The bell schedule which includes class transition and lunch times is [here](#).
3. **Reinforce the policy at home:** Encourage your child to follow the school's cell phone policy and support their teachers' guidelines for use during class.

This information will be posted to our school website. We will also be sharing this information with students in our Bengal Talks and weekly announcements. Together, we can create an environment where students are free to focus and thrive academically. Thank you for your partnership!

Sincerely,



Robert M. James
Principal