

Cellular Phones

Students are strongly discouraged from bringing cell phones to school. Students electing to bring cell phones into the building must keep them in their locker and turned off at all times during the normal school operating hours of 8:30am to 3:30pm. Students found with cell phones between 8:30am and 3:30pm will be punished as prescribed in the Student Discipline section of the student handbook. Note:

1. Students electing to bring a cell phone into the building are responsible for its care. The school is not responsible for preventing theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to cell phones brought onto its property.
2. Contents of confiscated cell phones can be searched by administrators if they have reasonable suspicion that it contains information concerning violation of a school rule or policy.
3. Parents/Guardians are advised that the only school authorized manner in which to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office.
4. Confiscated cell phones will be returned to a **parent/guardian at the end** of the school day.

Important Notice to Students and Parents Regarding Cell Phone Content and Display

- The Child Abuse/Neglect Law requires school personnel to report to law enforcement or child protective services whenever there is reason to believe that any person/student is involved with “child exploitation” or “child pornography” as defined by Indiana Criminal Statutes.
- It is “child exploitation,” a Class C felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(b), for any person/student (1) to exhibit, photograph or create a digitalized image of any incident that includes “sexual conduct” by a child under the age of 18; or (2) to disseminate, exhibit to another person, or offer to so disseminate or exhibit, matter that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child under the age of 18.
- It is “child pornography,” a Class D felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(c), for any person/student to possess a photograph, motion picture, digitalized image, or any pictorial representation that depicts or describes “sexual conduct” by a child who the person knows is less than 16 years of age or who appears less than age 16.
- “Sexual conduct” is defined by I.C. 35-42-4-4(a) to include sexual intercourse, exhibition of the uncovered genitals intended to satisfy or arouse the sexual desire of any person, or any fondling or touching of a child by another person or of another person by a child intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or other person.
- The Indiana Sex Offender Registration Statute at I.C. 11-8-8-7 and the Sex Offender Registry Offense Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-11, as of May 2009, require persons convicted of or adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent for violating the Child Exploitation Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-4(b) to register as a sex offender

Because student cell phones have been found in a number of Indiana school districts to have contained evidence of “sexual conduct” as defined above, it is important for parents and students to be aware of the legal consequences should this occur in our school system.