

# Carnage Magnet Middle School

## Cell Phone and Personal Electronics Policy



### Background

The WCPSS Board of Education approved Policy 4318 (Student Use of Personal Wireless Communication Devices) to go into effect for the 25-26 school year. In alignment with this policy, we want to:

- promote positive digital habits,
- improve student focus and well-being in the learning environment by reducing distractions,
- and maintain a safe and orderly school.

### Overview

- Devices must be **silenced** and **put away** between morning arrival and afternoon dismissal
- “Put away” means out of sight and not easily accessible (ex: stored in a locker, backpack, or bag)
- Students may not display, use, or make devices visible during this time period unless there is a formal, documented exception related to: translation services, assistive communication, or safety
- Students must ask permission in advance from a school staff member for brief use of a personal device if there is a reasonable and legitimate need to communicate with someone outside the school during the instructional day. Students must honor any specific directions given by staff
- “Personal devices” include, but are not limited to: cell phones, smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, laptops, gaming devices, headphones, earbuds

### Consequences

- Verbal warning first
- If the behavior continues, the device may be taken away by the classroom teacher for the remainder of the period or an administrator for the remainder of the day
- Parents will be contacted if this becomes a pattern and may be asked to pick up the phone instead of returning it to the student
- Continued unauthorized student use of personal devices may result in additional consequences related to Policy 4309 - Code of Student Conduct

### Use of Device on School Bus

- Use of personal devices may be regulated or prohibited on school buses by transportation or school staff when such devices interfere with the safe operation of the buses
- Audio should be played only with headphones or earbuds and at a reasonable volume so as not to disturb other students or distract the driver (need to still hear directions from driver)

***\*Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their personal devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss, or damage of such devices.***