



## **MPVA Cell Phone Policy**

**(Updated 12/3/24)**

**In an effort to maintain safety on our campus, while maximizing instruction, MPVA will implement a new cell phone policy where students are required to turn in their cell phones in a secure location daily. See the updates below to provide a quick overview of our plan that will begin next Monday December 9th:**

1. All cell phones will be turned into students' 4th/8th period class teacher pending purple or grey day. Cellphones will remain stationary for the entire day and will not travel with students. This includes cell phones and watches (unless approved for medical support- as verified by the nurse or your child's 504 plan/IEP). All devices will be locked up in a secure location, where teachers and admin will only have access.
2. We will release all students 3 minutes early every am to walk to their 4th/8th period class before homeroom. For the first week (starting December 9th) we will give students 10 minutes to transition and will make an announcement for all students to transition to their homeroom class, at the same time.
3. Teachers will have a sign-in sheet where students will sign in daily first, then turn in their phone to the teacher via phone pouch.
4. Once students are complete with check-in, students will report their homeroom/spark class.
5. At the end of each students' 4th/8th period class, students will check-out their devices the last five minutes of class.
6. Although approximately 90% of our students bring communication devices daily, we also recognize that some students do not have devices. Parents- You are welcome to verify with your child's 4th and 8th period teachers via email if this impacts your child. Teachers will also exercise judgement when supporting students to secure all devices.
7. If students violate the new cell policy (ie. do not turn in their phones in, and are visibly seen/heard with them, phones will be turned into the dean's office and parents will be required to pick them up. For chronic concerns, the Student Code of Conduct will be used to reinforce expectations.

**We are asking for all parent and community support to implement our new policy. For additional questions, you are welcome to reach out to your child's 4th/8th period teacher, or grade level dean's office. You may also reference the FAQ sheet below for immediate assistance. We appreciate your support as we maximize safety and instruction at MPVA.**



**FAQ sheet to help troubleshoot:**

1. When will my student need to submit his/her phone to the teacher? **Students will be directed to their 4<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> period class of the day when dismissed from their grade level arrival locations. This is when they will submit their cell phone and SMART watches to the teacher to be held for the remainder of the day.**
2. How will cell phones and devices be secured during the day? **Classroom teachers have been assigned a locker/storage area and a lock, to secure the cell phone pouch with student electronic devices.**
3. What happens if your child's 4<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> period teacher is absent/unavailable, and the teacher has the key to the lock? **Each dean's office will have a spare key for access.**
4. How will the substitute complete the cell phone check-in? **The dean's office will support a class with check-in and lock-up.**
5. What happens when a student needs to leave early? **Students to report to the dean's office to secure their phone. Teachers will remind students of their slot number that will be located on the sign-in sheet. Students who have magnet, SPED or PE teachers for their 4<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> period class will report to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade dean's office for assistance.**
6. What if a teacher is absent and a split list is created? **Students will turn their phone in with their homeroom/spark teacher. You will have the students sign in at the bottom of the sheet.**
7. What if my child does not bring a cell phone to school? **Teachers will exercise judgement and decision-making authority with the cell implementation plan. A call may be given to parents for verification. When in doubt, grade-level deans will be available to assist with support.**
8. What if a student refuses to give up their cell phone and I know they have one? **Teachers will contact the parent and/or campus administration for assistance. If a student is caught with electronic device(s), students will be asked to submit their electronic device(s) to staff/administration, will receive disciplinary consequences and parents will need to pick up the device(s) from the grade level dean's office. After the first pick up/offense, parents may be required to pay a \$15 fee.**
9. Did MPVA implement the original district cell phone policy? Is the current cell phone policy being enforced? **Yes, the current HISD policy of *no cell phone and devices visible and use between the hours of 8:30 am to 4:00 pm* has been in place since the beginning of the 2024-25 academic school year.**
10. Is the new cell phone policy an NES protocol? **No**



11. What happens if there is an emergency on campus? If there is an emergency on campus, parents will be notified through official district and campus communication (via School Messenger- text, email, call). As with all HISD campuses, classroom phones are available for use where teachers and/or students are able to contact parents as needed. Deans' offices may assist with communication as well. Parents may also call the school (as many do with students that have personal devices or not) to update students on new arrangements.
12. What type of accommodations are necessary for a student to be allowed to keep his/her cell phone? Students may be approved to follow the original MPVA cell policy and keep their cell phone and device extensions in their backpack/bags if a 504 plan or SPED IEP for accommodations for medical supports are documented. Contact Mrs. Majdi- 504 Coordinator at [Elizabeth.Majdi@houstonisd.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Majdi@houstonisd.org) or Mrs. Cooper-Brewer-Special Education Chair at [Jessica.Cooperbrewer@houstonisd.org](mailto:Jessica.Cooperbrewer@houstonisd.org) for assistance.
13. Will the collection of phones create a hardship for teachers? With special consideration to our faculty, staff, and administration regarding implementation, each group was given opportunity in the planning stage, followed by an online feedback survey, to share questions/concerns/solutions to minimize disruption, maximize safety and security, and efficiency of the plan before going live. As with every new policy, opportunity for reflection and adjustments as needed will take place as we collect data, while valuing the importance of teamwork to drive results and positive culture.