

Cell Phone Usage & other electronic devices

Mobile phones and electronic devices such as smart watches are a part of modern society and St John's Lutheran School accepts that some students will possess mobile phones or smart watches. Phones are a useful tool, especially where the issue of safety is concerned. However, teachers and students have the right to teach and to learn in a classroom environment free from interruption by mobile phones and other electronic devices. While we prefer students not have mobile phones at school, St John's accepts that, in some circumstances, genuine safety and medical concerns exist which require students to bring a mobile phone onto school property; therefore, the school has adopted the following policy:

- Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones, smart watches or other electronic devices to school, on excursions or school camps.
- Use of mobile phones by students during school hours are NOT permitted.
- Smart watches that have the ability to make or receive calls or text are NOT permitted to be worn by students at school. Students wearing smart watches of this kind will be asked to leave their watch in their bookbag till the end of the school day.
- Mobile phones must be turned off, and kept in their bookbag till the end of the school day.
- Students are solely responsible for the security of their mobile phone, smart watch or other electronic device, and students that bring those devices to school do so at their own risk. The school does not accept any liability for any loss, or damage to mobile phones, smart watches or electronic devices.
- Where a mobile phone, smart watch or electronic device is seen or heard by a teacher/staff during school hours,
 - 1st offense- a warning will be given for the student to place in their bookbag.
 - 2nd offense-the phone/smart device will be confiscated and turned into the school office for a parent to pick-up.
 - 3rd offense- detention and parent will pick up device
- Inappropriate use of mobile phones, smart watches or electronic devices will result in students being unable to bring mobile phones, smart watches or electronic devices onto school property and parents or guardians being informed of this.
- When parents or guardians need to contact students during the school day, they should telephone the front office staff.
- If there are medical or safety concerns that mean your child must bring a mobile phone, smart watch or other electronic device to school, please contact a member of the school leadership team to discuss further.
- Nothing in this policy prohibits a student from using a cell phone for a purpose documented in the student's individualized education program developed under Chapter 3323 of the Ohio Revised Code or a plan developed under section 504 of the "Rehabilitation Act of 1973," 29 U.S.C. 794. A student may use a cell phone to monitor or address a health concern.