

Cell Phone – Feedback  
October 23, 2009

### 6<sup>th</sup> grade (8)

I as a parent think that both of those actions are reasonable. But personally I think these kids are too young to carry a cell phone, which is evident by all the miss use. Maybe these kids need to lose the cell phone privilege all together for a while , to drive the point home. Hold parents accountable too. That sounds good to me !

I support any way of getting those cell phones out of the school. They have become a distraction on many levels.

I would like to see the signs added to the doors. I don't feel the baskets are a great idea because there are dangers of phones being broken and/or stolen, as well as the fact that the kids that are most likely using them in class will get them in past the teacher somehow anyway.

I think perhaps stiffer punishments are in store when kids are caught with them on or using them during class time. I know a lot of kids rely on phones for safety, and trying to pass a "No phones allowed" policy schoolwide is really not an option in today's society, so I feel that a consequence fitting the crime and/or repeated offenses should be considered. A suggestion: 1st time caught - warning (office will need to keep track of offenses so this includes all classrooms); 2nd time - phone taken for remainder of day and parents pick it up; 3rd time - phone taken away and parents pick it up one week later; and so on. Seems like losing the phone for longer periods of time would be a "natural" consequence. Just an idea...

The only problem I see with the cell phones in the basket is spreading germs-that could be a real issue with all the stuff that is in the air these days, let alone on things we touch with our hands and near our mouth. Otherwise, I still believe students shouldn't be using their phones during classes. My daughter turns her phone off when she reaches school. It is harder for me to reach her than not, at this point. Thanks for allowing the input.

I agree that it seems like a lot of time out of class to have students place them in a basket and pick them up later. I know of schools who have students drop their phones off in the office when entering the school, and then they pick them up at the end of the day. It seems as though many students would just say they don't have them with them and keep them hidden, anyway.

I'm assuming that the current policy with having parents pick them up is not working? I would think parents would get tired of having to come to the school to pick up their kids' phones...I know I wouldn't have to do it more than once. ☺ How about excessive "offenders" can have their phones picked up at the end of the week by their parents? Just a thought.

I believe that as administrator and teachers you need to stay firm with your policies. No exceptions should be made. However, I agree with (Name) in that the punishment for repeat violators should be greater. For my kids, there would be punishment if I had to come get the phone the first time. Unfortunately, I don't think all parents see misuse of phones at school as being "that bad". Therefore, I think it does fall back on you as administrator, and all the teachers, to make the punishment greater. If that means a kids loses his phone for several days, or a week, so be it. These kids are old enough to know better.

I am in support of signs on the door, but shouldn't the sign be on the outside door, not the individual classrooms? I assume that you are thinking this would serve as a reminder for the kids to turn off their phones. I don't think it will have any other bearing that than because those kids who already violate the policy will not obey the sign either. As for the basket, I feel that it would be a waste of classroom time. As long as the phone is off, there shouldn't be a reason for the basket. In my opinion, it all seems to fall back to punishment for the repeat violators.

We also agree that the basket on the teacher's desk could be time-consuming. The teacher might also be blamed if there was any damage or problems with the phones. The other parents brought up some good points. We feel like it would be easiest to continue the current policy, but step up the consequence to the parent having to pick the phone up on the first offense. Thanks for asking for feedback!

I don't think the basket to put phones in is a good idea – for reasons others have already expressed – germs, phones being alike, time it would take to handle this, theft, damage to phones, etc.

I think if you feel you need additional reinforcement, signs might be a good idea – “remember to turn it off..”

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade (9)

I think putting the phone in the basket and turning it off is an excellent idea. We did not buy (student's name) her phone. That was entirely her father's doing. We make her turn it in at night or whenever she is grounded and other various reasons. If not, (student's name) would be texting 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. Thank you!

*I would like to see #2 enforced, I also think we need to extend that to MP3's and Ipods. I truly believe this is a huge problem in our classrooms and it's affecting our students ability to learn.*

*I am glad you are addressing this, I support you 100% we need to stand strong and protect our students.*

The issues I have with putting all the phones in a basket on the teacher's desk:

1 - germs.

2 - someone picking up someone else's phone. Either by accident or theft.

3 - if the phone is forgotten and ends up being taken by someone it doesn't belong to or it not making it back to the owner.

Personally, if (student's name) is using it in school, take it and I'll come get it and it will be mine.

Thanks for the opportunity to put in my 2 cents.

It's just my opinion, but I feel Middle School young adults should have the same respect given to them with cellphones as we adults have. I have my cellphone with me at all times, but if I go into a meeting, I make sure it is silenced and I will not check it during that time.

I believe that yes, the kids should have their phones turned off or silenced during the time spent in the classroom. And, yes, they should have them taken if they decide to use them in class.

I do, however, believe they should be allowed to use their cellphones outside of the classroom, as they are switching classes, etc. I think it's this generation's way of passing notes like I used to in the hallway. Nothing wrong with that.

I am thankful for the opportunity to text my kids rather than having to call the school or rather than them calling me at work. So, if they can check their phones during times they are not in class, it benefits us as a family.

(Student's name) doesn't have a cell phone and now I'm grateful he doesn't. I know at the high school, they are taken and parents are called. Many times the kids try to get the batteries out before they are confiscated. I think they should be shut off at school and left in lockers. Kids play games on them during class, text, and take pictures so classtime isn't the right time to do that anyway. Parents should be called... I personally shut off my high school daughters text msg. until summer her sophomore year because it became a problem. It takes parents backing up the rules also and having consequences for misuse of cell phones as well.

My family would definitely support those practices, and believe that would cut down on the opportunity for children to come up with excuses to their parents of why their phone was confiscated. Keep it simple and effective. Hope these procedures can be implemented quickly.

Heres an idea, how about for your child to have a cell phone at school the parent/caregiver must register the cell phone with the school. In the office you would have little cubbie holes to "house" each cell phone, children check phones in in the morning, pick them up after school. Yes, it would be a hassle, however, social textmessaging has to be interfering with the education of our children. Not to mention the ease of sending messages about answers to tests, etc... The other ideas could work, if parents would register the phone with the school before the school year starts, or whenever they allow their child to have a cell phone. Then the school would know who has the phones, and could know in the morning "collection", if all phones were "present and accounted for". Or perhaps, the turn in of cell phones could happen in the home room, in something that would lock up until the end of the day. Thanks for the chance to input!

no cell phones at school best choice. thank you

They should be left in the lockers shut off. Or if they are afraid they will be stolen out of their lockers in pockets shut off, or given to teacher as they come into class. I do let (Name) bring his to school as needed to call me when he is on a field trip so I know when to be @ the school to pick him up. I hope he isn't abusing my trust w/ it. my feelings if a parent needs to get a hold of a student @ school, there is no reason they can't call the office. It is how it was done for years.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade (7)**

Absolutely NOT!! These children are growing up in a time when cell phone usage throughout the day is not only normal but expected in most jobs. Teaching cell phone manners would be acceptable but the teachers are going to have to "grow with the times" on this one. I am surprised at this in a district that teach"s keyboarding in kindergarten! I most certainly do not support my children not being able to get ahold of me as THEY see fit as I do not trust other adults to be exclusively in charge. Do you watch the news? I would expect that if there is a problem with the use of (student's name) phone that I be notified otherwise not really anyone Else's business when she needs to talk to her mom. Having had two HS students recently I can tell you that this policy probably doesn't work exclusively either and given the information on problems at the middle school that (student's name) recently shared with me I have bigger concerns than her making phone calls!! Sorry if this worded so strongly but this is very conspicuously a band aid to a bigger problem.

I would like to say that I am behind you in your efforts to stop cell phone use during school. My daughter (Name) knows her limits re: her phone and if she should extend those limits she will have the phone taken away. I think the signs are a good idea as well as placing the phones within the teacher's hands before class however I am a little concerned about the basket idea. Phones are expensive and I am worried about the possibility of another student taking my daughter's phone whether it is on accident or purpose. As I've stated I don't agree with cell phone use and school and I back actions against it, but I've also spent money on my daughter's phone and do not want to spend more.

I feel that no cell phone should be used during school hours. They need to be in their lockers and left there during school. If they are seen during school hours, I feel that ISS should be considered. My child has a cell phone and it will not go go school with him. The school has phones for him to contact me. These phones are too much of a distraction and are not needed at school.

i think putting them in a basket would be good

I agree that it seems like a lot of time out of class to have students place them in a basket and pick them up later. I know of schools who have students drop their phones off in the office when entering the school, and then they pick them up at the end of the day. It seems as though many students would just say they don't have them with them and keep them hidden, anyway.

I'm assuming that the current policy with having parents pick them up is not working? I would think parents would get tired of having to come to the school to pick up their kids' phones...I know I wouldn't have to do it more than once. ☺ How about excessive "offenders" can have their phones picked up at the end of the week by their parents? Just a thought.

YES WE WOULD SUPPORT!

yes I will for what you say about the phones.

### **Teachers/Staff (5)**

(Student's name) tricked me by having it within his wallet - so when he emptied his pockets and showed me his wallet -- it was inside it b/c it was so thin! They are still going to sneak them past us -- but hey...it's certainly worth a try if it helps at all! Goodluck :)

That should work.

Classrooms should be a place for learning and not social networking in any capacity. Cell phone use goes on inspite of school efforts to monitor students using them during school day. "Cell phones brought to school must be turned off and kept in the student's locker or book bag." Without searching students when they arrive, there is no real way to control student cell phone use unless we collect them. This is worth a try!

no cell phones at school best choice. thank you

I would support this if the students would comply.