



August 21, 2018

Dear Brooklyn Park Middle School Families,

I write to share what has not been an easy decision about the cell phone policy at BPMS. For the past two years, the expectation has been that students could keep their electronics/accessories on person, as long as they remained off and out of sight during the instructional day. While we appreciate that cell phones have positively changed our lives in many ways, these past two years have proven without question, that the negativity brought into the school building via these devices *far outweighs* any positive contributions. Highly inappropriate content, cyberbullying, intimidation, harassment, theft, fight videos, rumors, snapchats, Instagram live, Instagram stories, facetime, air drops, texts, and group chats are the reasons our teachers spend countless precious minutes away from instructional time and administrators spend countless precious hours away from instructional leadership. Those minutes and hours lost are negatively impacting not only the culture of Brooklyn Park Middle School, but the academic achievement of the community as a whole.

With that said, it is my hope you will join me in supporting the update to our electronics policy beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. This addition will require that **all electronic devices and accessories are kept in student's individual lockers during the school day.**

As a parent of four children myself, I appreciate the comfort and convenience of being able to communicate with them 24/7 and so understand what I am asking you to give up during the school day. I am also asking you to appreciate that our collective group of middle school children is not yet developmentally ready to handle the steady stream of distractions a cell phone brings while maintaining a focus on learning. As the leader of this school community, it is my responsibility to remove impediments such as these, to our learning, our safety, and our environment. I ask that we stand together in implementing this expectation and refocus our adolescents on the real reason for these seven hours each day.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. 410-636-2967

Thank you,

Principal Shakan