

Dear Corkran Middle School Families,

I write to share a change in our cell phone guidelines at CMS. In the past, the expectation has been that students could keep their electronics/accessories on their person, as long as they remained off and out of sight during the instructional day. We appreciate that cell phones have positively changed our lives in many ways. However, this past year has 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, videos, rumors, Snapchats, Instagram live, Instagram stories, facetime, air drops, texts, 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 Corkran Middle School, but the academic achievement of the community as a whole. I know you share my desire to create the most conducive environment for student success, and this is a big step towards ensuring students aren't distracted and are ready to learn.

It is my hope you will join me in supporting our electronics guidelines beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. This will require **all electronic devices and accessories to be in the off position and out of the sight of teachers and administrators for the entire school day. Please encourage students to place their device in their locker with a lock. Students aren't allowed to have phones/phone accessories visible at any time during the day.** I appreciate the comfort and convenience of being able to communicate with your children via cell phone, so I understand what I am asking you to give up during the school day. Students are able to come to the office to make calls home. Likewise, if parents/guardians need to reach their child, you are welcome to call the school, and we will connect them with you. 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.

Sincerely,

Adam Zetwick
Principal
Corkran Middle School

