



# University of Cleveland Preparatory School

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1906 East 40<sup>th</sup> Street

Cleveland, OH 44103

216.361.9720

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## 2024-2025 Cell Phone Policy

To support school environments in which students can fully engage with their classmates, their teachers, and instruction, the Board of Directors of University of Cleveland Preparatory School has determined the use of cell phones by students during school hours should be limited. The objective of this policy is to strengthen University of Cleveland Preparatory School's focus on learning, in alignment with our mission to ignite students' passion for learning, cultivate a strong foundation of knowledge, and foster a sense of community within our schools.

### I. Research

Research shows that student use of cell phones in schools has negative effects on student performance and mental health. Cell phones distract students from classroom instruction, resulting in smaller learning gains and lower test scores. Increased cell phone use has led to higher levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health disorders in children.

### II. Applicability

This policy applies to the use of cell phones by students while on School property, in a School vehicle, or while attending School-sponsored or School-related activities.

### III. Use of Cell Phones

Students are prohibited from using cell phones at all times. Cell phones and other personal communication devices may be brought to school. However, due to the risk of loss, theft, and misuse, the school encourages students to leave such devices at home. From 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., student cell phones and personal communication devices are not to be used and must be silenced and properly stored for the duration of the school day. Students found to be in violation of the silenced and stored requirement, may have them confiscated and receive disciplinary consequences. Students are not permitted to use electronic communication devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, CD/MP3/DVD players, video recorders, personal video games, personal data devices or other devices deemed to be distracting.

### IV. Exception

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

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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.

## V. Cell phone storage

Students shall keep their cell phones in a secure place, such as the student's locker or a storage device provided by the school when cell phone use is prohibited.

## VI. Discipline

If a student violates this policy, a teacher or administrator shall take the following progressively serious disciplinary measures:

- Give the student a verbal warning and require the student to store the student's cell phone in accordance with this policy.
- Securely store the student's cell phone in a teacher or administrator-controlled locker, bin, or drawer for the duration of the school day.
- Place the student's cell phone in the school's central office to be picked up by the student's parent or guardian.
- Schedule a conference with the student's parent or guardian to discuss the student's cell phone use and determine appropriate consequences.
- When a student continues to violate this policy, they shall be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to losing the privilege of bringing the device onto School property, detention, or suspension.

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