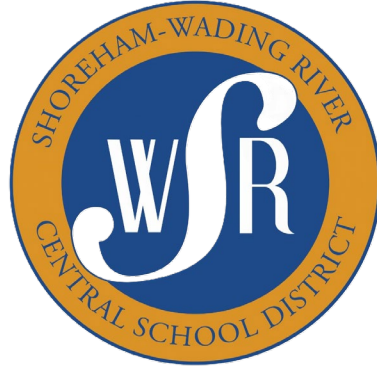


2024-25 Personal Device Protocols

August 27, 2024

SWRCSD BOE Meeting

Coffee, Donuts, and Cellphones



Informal Discussion on the Impact of Student Cell Phone Use

7/12/24

10:00 a.m. in the High School Library

Meeting #2: 8/8/24



Personal Devices

1080P Glasses Camera



Video Take pictures TF Card 1080P 1920*1080P

This block features a product advertisement for a 1080P glasses camera. At the top left is a small circular icon of a camera lens. Below it is a pair of black-rimmed glasses with a small camera lens mounted on the right temple. At the bottom, there are four icons in a row: a video camera icon labeled 'Video', a camera icon labeled 'Take pictures', a TF card icon labeled 'TF Card', and a resolution icon labeled '1080P' with '1920*1080P' written below it.



Current SWRCSD Protocols for Student Cell Phone Use



SHOREHAM-WADING RIVER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

250B Route 25A, Shoreham-New York 11786

Phone: 631-821-8100

www.swrschools.org

Gerard W. Poole
Superintendent of Schools

Student Cell Phone Usage

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Research shows that cell phones in classrooms are a distraction for individual learning as well as the overall classroom environment. Certainly, we have all witnessed the distractions that cell phones can cause children in all areas of their lives. By taking steps to limit cell phone usage in school, we can assist students in fully participating in lessons and being truly present in class. Student engagement in learning is a top priority in our classrooms and paying attention does impact achievement. With the implementation of the 1-1 Chromebook program in our schools, students are able to access any digital resource during instructional time that may be needed for learning and as such there is no instructional need for cell phones.

Please see below for the District cell phone use protocols:

- At the High School, students are not permitted to have their cell phones or accessories out, or in use, while in classrooms unless expressly permitted by the classroom teacher. Sound alerts and notifications must be turned off while in class. Students will also be strongly encouraged to turn off silent notifications and alerts during class time as these are also proven to be distractions to learning. High school students may access their cell phones when they are not in an instructional period.
- At the Prodell Middle School, Wading River School and Miller Avenue School, cell phones may be brought to school, but are not permitted to be out or utilized during the regular school day at any time.

Please take a moment to review these cell phone protocols with your children and to remind them of appropriate cell phone use in school and on the bus. As always, your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated. Please reach out to my office at any time should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gerard W. Poole'.

Gerard W. Poole

At the **High School**, students are **not permitted to have their cell phones or accessories out, or in use, while in classrooms** unless expressly permitted by the classroom teacher. Sound alerts and notifications must be turned off while in class. Students will also be strongly encouraged to turn off silent notifications and alerts during class time as these are also proven to be distractions to learning. High school students may access their cell phones when they are not in an instructional period.

At the **Prodell Middle School, Wading River School and Miller Avenue School**, cell phones may be brought to school, but are **not permitted to be out or utilized** during the regular school day at any time.

Discussion: What was the impact of these protocols last year?



Teacher Survey Findings

- Smartphones are a constant distraction that take students' attention away from lessons and disrupt the learning environment.
- The presence of personal devices (smartwatches, air pods) has negative effects on academic performance and social skills.
- It is challenging and time consuming to constantly monitor and enforce current smartphone protocols during instruction.
- Teachers called for clearer, more consistent protocols and enforcement of personal device rules for all grade levels.
- K-12 concern.

"Cell phones are a **major distraction** in the classroom. With Chromebooks available to all students, there should not be a reason to have cell phones in the classroom during instructional time."

"**Smartwatches** are cell phones. They should not be allowed in class. I've had third graders texting parents to get picked up early. They are playing games and texting each other. It's not only distracting, it's a safety concern."

"High school students are absolutely **addicted to their phones** and cannot go more than a few minutes without checking them. It is a real source of distraction for students at the high school level."



U.S. Surgeon General: Why I'm Calling for a Warning Label on Social Media Platforms

“The rest of society can play a role also. **Schools should ensure that classroom learning and social time are phone-free experiences.** Parents, too, should create phone-free zones around bedtime, meals and social gatherings to safeguard their kids’ sleep and real-life connections — both of which have direct effects on mental health. And they should wait until after middle school to allow their kids access to social media. This is much easier said than done, which is why parents should work together with other families to establish shared rules, so no parents have to struggle alone or feel guilty when their teens say they are the only one who has to endure limits.”

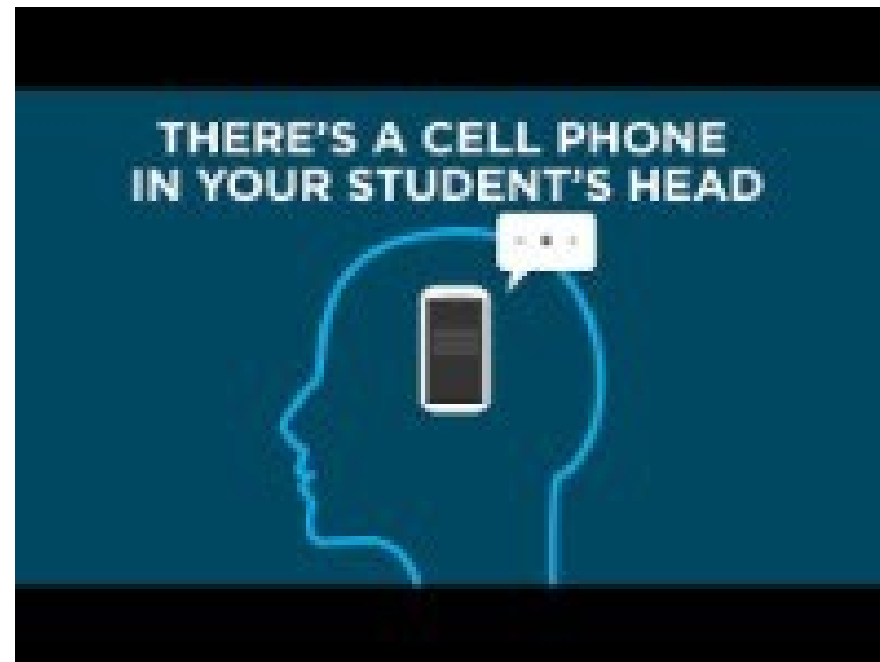
“It is time to **require a surgeon general’s warning label on social media** platforms, stating that social media is associated with significant mental health harms for adolescents. “

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/06/17/opinion/social-media-health-warning.html>



“Brain Drain: The Mere Presence of One’s Own Smartphone Reduces Available Cognitive Capacity”

Participants turned off their phones. While they performed memory tasks, some could keep their phone with them and some had to put it in the other room. Those who had the phone with them did significantly worse on the tasks. **The attention and energy it takes to not check a phone seems to cause "brain drain."**





Personal Device Protocols for 2024-25

- 1. Grades K-5:** All personal devices are prohibited from being brought to school.
- 2. Grades 6-8:** Personal devices may be brought to school, but are required to be stored in student lockers during regular school hours.
- 3. Grades 9-12:** Personal devices may be brought to school, but are not permitted on students' persons during class time. Upon entering each classroom, students must "check in" all personal devices including smartphones, smartwatches, smart rings, wireless earbuds, and any other communication-capable devices, by placing them in a designated storage system. Devices can be retrieved after class. Students leaving the classroom for the restroom may not take their devices with them. As an alternative, students have the option to secure their devices in their assigned lockers for the duration of the school day.
- 4. Medical Conditions:** Students with documented medical conditions requiring continual device access may request an accommodation.



Code of Conduct: Progressive Discipline on the Use of Personal Devices:

First Offense:

1. Student sent to administration by classroom teacher
2. Device confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day
3. Parent/guardian notification

Second Offense:

1. Student sent to administration by classroom teacher
2. Device confiscated
3. Parent/guardian required to retrieve device

Third Offense and beyond:

1. Student sent to administration by classroom teacher
2. Student considered insubordinate
3. Device confiscated
4. Parent/guardian required to retrieve device
5. Loss of device privileges on school grounds for 1 week or longer

Note: The proposed consequences are to be implemented at the start of the school year for all grades K-12. However, for grades 9-12, a gradual implementation period will be implemented for September, allowing high school students a few weeks to adjust to the new policy.



Additional Education

1. Additional recommendations discussed at the forums included: Providing students with education on productive personal device management.
2. Further exploration of lockable personal pouch storage systems for use during school hours.

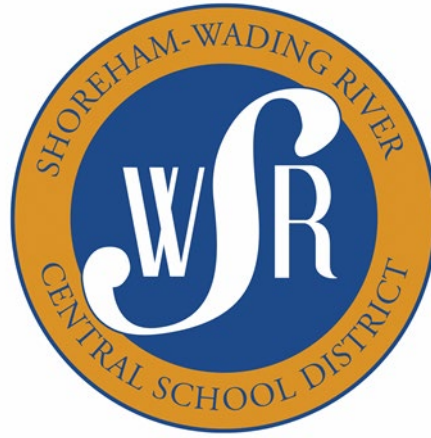
 **YONDR Bags: A future consideration?**



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.

Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.

When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.



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