



Branciforte Middle School
Opening Minds - Opening Hearts - Opening Doors



Electronic Device Policy and Wheels Contract

In order to create a safe campus for students and limit distractions to learning, Branciforte Middle School is a PHONE FREE ZONE. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices before entering class each morning. During the school day, cell phones are to be stored in students' lockers and should not be carried in pockets or on their person. At the end of the school day, students are welcome to turn their phones back on once they exit the campus. Students have access to Chromebooks in classes to access information and they may use an office phone to contact parents if needed. Parents may also contact the office if there is an emergency.

This decision is based on several factors showing up in recent research:

- A 2016 study indicates increasing rates of depression in youth is correlated with the use of mobile phones and texting apps. The more time youth spend on social media, the more likely they are to identify themselves as unhappy. Additionally, the opposite is also true, face-to-face time with friends strongly correlates with less depressive feelings.
- A 2012 study on college students indicated that those students who used their cell phones during class scored significantly worse on tests, often a full letter grade or more. Additionally, evidence shows that just having your phone nearby affects learning. In a 2017 study, participants completely turned off and silenced their phones. While they performed memory tasks, some were allowed to keep their phone, and some were told to put it in the other room. Those who had the phone with them did significantly worse.

Additionally, we cannot guarantee that the items will not be lost or stolen. All hand held electronics must be left at home or placed in lockers.

For physical safety, skateboards and bikes are not allowed on campus unless they are part of a school organized or approved activity. Bikes should be locked in the bike cage or to a bike rack. Skateboards should be placed in student lockers. If a skateboard is too big for a locker, it must be put in the skateboard shed. Students' names must be on skateboards placed in the skateboard shed.

If a student does not follow the policy, the consequences will include the following:

- 1st offense: item will be held in the office until a parent/guardian is able to pick it up.
- 2nd offense: item will be held for a week and then may be picked up by a parent/guardian.
- 3rd offense: item will be held for a month and the student will be banned from having the item at campus.

I understand the electronic device policy at Branciforte Middle School.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

date

Print parent/guardian name

Parent Signature

date